

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project

Quarterly Report – April - June 2010

Introduction

In September 2009 the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, The Environment Agency and Natural England signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding to undertake a Catchment Sensitive Farming Project on the Isle of Wight on the principles laid out by the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative. The inaugural steering group meeting was held on 2nd October 2009 although interest had been cultivated before this time by the Catchment Sensitive Farming Project Officer, Lucy Temple.

Meetings were held with local Environment Agency officers and a Catchment Appraisal and Delivery Plan drafted. This report is compiled against the delivery plan and original MOA and its amendments.

Overall the watercourses of greatest concern when considering diffuse pollution are :

Area 1 : Eastern Yar : from source to Brading Marshes with Wroxall stream tributary

Area 2 : NW Coast from Cranmore to Thorness Bay : including Newtown catchment ie Caul Bourne, Rodgebrook and other smaller freshwater inputs

Area 3 : Thorley Brook : from source to western Yar estuary

Area 4 : Whale to Grange Chines : south-west coast freshwater inputs into SAC.

Area 5 : Medina River : source to Newport

Table 1 : IW CSF Delivery Plan

Area		Predicted		Actual		Cum (actual)	
		Apr-Jun 10		Apr-Jun 10		Oct 09 – Jun 10	
		N	F	N	F	N	F
1	Eastern Yar	2	4	4		12	5
2	NW Coast	1	2	3	3	7	5
3	Thorley Brook	1				1	1
4	SW Coast		2	3	4	5	6
5	Medina			2	2	6	2
Total		4	8	12	10	31	19

Note : N = Novel visit : F = Follow up visit : Cum = cumulative

Farms visited

Eastern Yar

Hill Farm, Newchurch
Stanwell Farm, Bembridge (RH)
Allendale Stables, Godshill (RP)
Nettlecombe Farm, Whitwell

North-west Coast

The Stables, Shalfleet (RP)
Eades Farm, Newbridge* (RP) + follow-ups
Locks Farm, Porchfield (RP)

Thorley Brook

SW Coast

Thorncross Farm, Atherfield (RH+RP) + follow-ups
Limerstone Farm, Limerstone (RH+RP) + follow-ups
Haslett Farm, Shorwell

Medina

Birch's Meadow, Fairlee (RP)
Billingham Manor Farm (RP) – follow-up
Werrar Farm (RP) + follow-up

* Eades Farm includes land in the eastern Yar area

Key to Visit themes

GWP = groundwater protection

RP = resource protection

RH = rainwater harvesting

Visits were also made to Briddlesford Lodge Farm (at the request of the Environment Agency) and Rew Street, Gurnard. These farms are not in our target catchments.

Workshops

The memorandum of understanding with partner organisations includes the delivery of four themed workshops. An Entry Level Stewardship renewals workshop was scheduled for 26th May 2010. However response to invitation was poor despite all the farmers being due for renewal being invited.

However the Rural Business Management seminar, held on 22nd April at Cowes Yacht Haven and attended by the Project Officer, stimulated twelve invitations from farmers to visit their land and discuss agri-environment schemes, NVZ's and other issues related to diffuse pollution. These invitations explain the high number of novel visits this quarter.

Steering Group

The Steering Group will meet every quarter throughout the project to update members on progress and to gain strategic direction from the attendees on particular issues of concern as they arise.

Meetings have been held on 9th October 2009 and 11th March 2010

Newsletter

The first edition of the newsletter was published in early April and distributed by e-mail to all major contacts developed in the project to date. The newsletter was subsequently placed on the website. The newsletter included an invitation to the ELS renewals workshop.

Website

The website was on-line in early December – www.iwcsf.org. The website carries details of the previous report and featured the newsletter when it was published. It is up-dated monthly with local information as we receive it.

Contractors and Professional Fees

Island 2000 Trust (now Natural Enterprise) have a software programme which enables them to plot slope maps for farmers to emphasise areas most at risk with regard to soil erosion, chemical run-off and diffuse pollution. This software will be invaluable in helping farmers interpret their soil protection reviews, ELS and HLS options and help advisors target advice across the farm.

Natural Enterprise have produced slope maps for five farms during this period. These will be required to help farmers with their NVZ maps and Soil Protection Review renewals

Training

The IW CSF Officer attended training courses on grassland assessment (ecology and NVC communities) with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on 17th May and 16th June 2010

Lucy Temple
IWCSF Project Officer
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust