

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project

Quarterly Report – January to March 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)	
		Jan – Mar 10		Jan – Mar 10		Oct 09 – Mar 10	
		N	F	N	F	N	F
1	Eastern Yar	1	3	3	4	8	5
2	NW Coast	1	2	1	2	4	2
3	Thorley Brook		1		1	1	2
4	SW Coast	2	1	1	1	2	2
5	Medina		1	2		4	
Total		4	8	7	7	19	11

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

Farms visited

Eastern Yar

Niton Manor Farm (with follow-up)(RP+RH)
Dean Farm (with follow-up) (RP)
Hale Manor Farm (RH) – follow up
Redway Farm (RP) –follow-up
Oaklea Dairy (RP) – follow up
Niton householder (RP)

North-west Coast

Lambslease Farm (with follow-up)(RP)
Durrants Farm (RP + RH) – follow-up
Ashengrove Farm (RP+GWP) – follow-up

Thorley Brook

Lee Farm (RP) - follow-up^

SW Coast

West Court Farm (with follow-up) (GWP + RP)
Downton Farm (RP)

Medina

Island Harbour (RP)
Billingham Manor Farm (RP)

^ Lee Farm includes land in the NW Coast area

Key to Visit themes

GWP = groundwater protection

RP = resource protection

RH = rainwater harvesting

Workshops

The memorandum of understanding with partner organisations includes the delivery of four themed workshops. The timetable for these are as follows :

Jan – Mar 10 – NVZ workshop.

The Isle of Wight, along with other areas in the country, is having its NVZ's expanded to meet current legislative (Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regs 2008) and good farm practice guidelines.

A workshop was run by the Environment Agency in January and another is scheduled for March. We have not been involved with these but have presented leaflets with information on the project to all participants.

On 22nd April a meeting is being held by IW Rural Business for farm secretaries and other farm staff. We will have a presence there including a stall and a point to distribute literature.

The project was featured at the IW Hedgelaying Competition on 27 February and also at the IW Woodland Forum.

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.

The inaugural meeting took place on 2nd October 09. It was attended by officers of NE, EA, IWAONB, local RSPB & CLA reps and officers of the Wildlife Trust. The next meeting is scheduled for 11th March at the NFU offices in Carisbrooke

Newsletter

A newsletter is currently in preparation and will be produced by end March / beginning of April. It will feature ELS renewals and an invitation to a meeting about these in the next quarter.

Website

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

Contractors and Professional Fees

Island 2000 Trust 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.

Island 2000 Trust have produced slope maps for seven 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 a training course on changes to the Farm Environment Plan process at Lyndhurst on 27th January.