

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust

Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project

Quarterly Report – October – December 2009

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	
		Oct – Dec 09		Jan - Mar	
		N	F	N	F
1	Eastern Yar	3	2	5	1
2	NW Coast	2	1	3	
3	Thorley Brook	1		1	1
4	SW Coast	1	1	1	1
5	Medina	1		2	
Total		8	4	12	3

Note : N = Novel visit F = Follow up visit

Farms visited

Eastern Yar

Brading Down (with follow-up)(GWP)
Bachelors Farm * (RP)
Hale Manor Farm (RH)
Redway Farm (RP)
Oaklea Dairy (RP)

North-west Coast

Rowridge (GWP)
Durrants Farm (RP + RH)
Ashengrove Farm (RP)

Thorley Brook

Lee Farm (with follow-up) (RP)^

SW Coast

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

Medina

Gatcombe Mill (RP)
Hermitage Dairy+ (RP)

*Bachelors Farm includes land in SW Coast area

+Hermitage Dairy Farm included land in the E. Yar area

^ 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 :

Oct – Dec 09 – Soil protection reviews

No workshop on soil protection reviews was undertaken

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, which will be run in partnership with EA will look at the expansion of the NVZ and advise farmers on the practical consequences to this change and how they will be expected to meet new conditions under the Water Framework Directive. This will help the production of soil protection reviews being undertaken by farmers. This has been provisionally timetabled for 27th January and we are awaiting details from EA and their partners.

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 meetings 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.

Newsletter

No newsletter was produced this quarter. This will appear next quarter and then at six monthly intervals.

Website

The website was on-line in early December – www.iwcsf.org. As well as containing details of contacting the project it will also carry links to other partners and organisations with useful information; carry explanations of the work the project wishes to carry out; news and updates on the project.

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 been commissioned to produce 10 slope maps for farmers in the catchment by end March 2010 and these will be required to help farmers with their NVZ maps and Soil Protection Review renewals