

Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project

Newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2012

The Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming (IWCSF) Project is coordinated by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. This project aims to provide well informed advice and guidance to farmers and landowners on all aspects of catchment sensitive farming. The project officer may also provide assistance with applications for grant funding to protect water resources, address diffuse and point source pollution and enhance wetland habitats.

CSF Capital Grant Scheme

Application window: **1st March 2013 – 30th April 2013.**

Grants for:

- Hard bases for livestock drinkers and feeders
- Cross drains
- Sediment ponds and traps
- Yard works for clean and dirty water separation
- Rainwater storage tanks
- Relocation of sheep dips
- Livestock and machinery tracks and associated livestock fencing
- Lined biobeds
- Roofing of manure storage and livestock gathering areas
- Roofs for slurry and silage stores

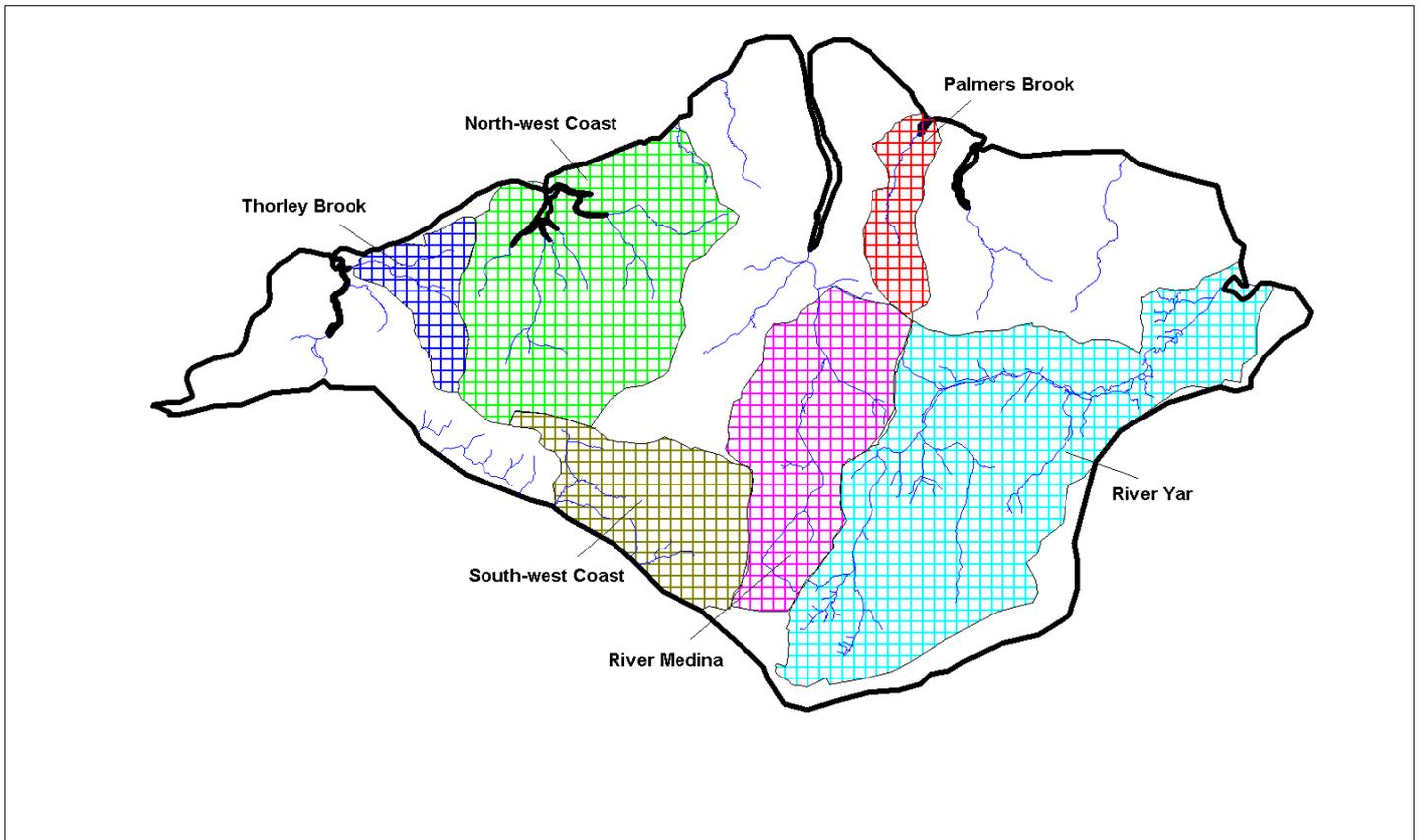
A maximum of £10,000 may be awarded to any farm to cover 50% of the costs (labour/machinery/materials)

This is a nationally competitive scheme so if demand outstrips supply priority will be given to:

- Projects within the catchment target areas (see map below)
- Applicants who have received 1:1 on farm advice from the IWCSF Project Officer
- Those with holdings in Environmental Stewardship/ Countryside Stewardship Agreements



IW CSF Catchment Target Areas 2013-2014



Important information about the CSF Capital Grant

- This is a nationally competitive scheme available to all within 73 priority catchments in England
- Applicants will be advised whether they are successful by mid-July
- This is a prior approval scheme so work must not commence before applications are deemed successful
- Conditional consents and permissions, if required, to be received by 8th June and final clearance letters to be received by 8th March
- Claims must be submitted once works are completed with invoices and photos by 28th February and claims will be processed by 31st March
- Work must be carried out to the standards laid out in the Specifications Handbook
- Applicants must have an RPA Vendor Number and CPH Number so that claim payments can be made.

N.B. The above details are correct for the 2013-2014 application round and may be subject to change for any future application rounds.

To request an application pack and handbook please contact:
CSF Grants Team, Nottingham
TEL: 0300 060 1111

Further details may be found at
www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/csf/egs

To request advice and 1:1 farm visits please contact :
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Web: www.iwcsf.org.uk

Many of you will have had field operations affected by the adverse weather we have experienced during recent weeks. It isn't always possible to keep off land when conditions are less than ideal, but make sure that you update your Soil Protection Review (SPR) if you do need to access land when it is waterlogged. Legislation is being constantly updated and it is important to stay on top of requirements. In this newsletter we bring you updates on the SSAFO regulations from the Environment Agency.

The "SSAFO" Regulations - a quick guide for farmers

The "SSAFO" Regulations or to give its full name The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) (England) Regulations 2010 (here on referred to as the Regulations) came into force on 6 April 2010, replacing those Regulations first made in 1991.

The Regulations set minimum legal standards for the storage of silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil to minimise the risk of water pollution. It doesn't tell you how to you should meet these requirements; however, if you meet the minimum standards specified in the Regulations you can exercise discretion in constructing the installations as long as you comply with the duty to avoid causing pollution.

The Environment Agency (the Agency) is the enforcing body and anyone breaching the Regulations will be guilty of committing a criminal offence, punishable with a maximum fine of £5,000 (at the time of writing) on conviction at Magistrates Court. If heard at Crown Court the penalty could be an unlimited fine.

The Regulations apply to the following:

- silage making and storage and silage effluent, including crops being made into silage, silage made in clamps baled silage (bagged or wrapped) and field silage (field heaps, or non-baled, bagged silage, such as Ag-Bags.)
- slurry storage systems, including stores for dilute effluent such as dirty yard water, excreta, or run-off from solid manure stores in yards, livestock bedding, washings from buildings or yards used by livestock, lagoons, reception pits, towers, wood chip corrals and associated pipes and channels.
- agricultural fuel oil stores which are above ground.

The Regulations require that:

- all new installations are constructed with a durability life of at least 20 years (with proper maintenance)
- installations should not be constructed, and silage must not be made, and silage, effluent, slurry or fuel oil must not be stored, within 10 metres of any inland freshwaters or coastal waters which any leakage could enter. (This includes rivers, lakes, reservoirs and smaller watercourses such as streams and ditches as well as perforated drainage pipes). These are minimum distances and should be increased in sensitive locations, such as near water supply intakes, which the Agency can advise you on
- constructing or installing a new store (this includes substantial enlargements and substantial reconstructions of existing exempt installations) requires the notification in writing to the Agency at least 14 days before it is used. I would recommend that you contact your local Agency office and inform the agricultural Environment Officer at the earliest opportunity – to avoid potential disappointments.



Environmental Stewardship Update

There are five new (O)ELS options:

- **EE12/OE12 Supplement to add wildflowers to buffer strips and field corners (63 points/ha).** Create more food sources for invertebrates and birds and a greater diversity and structure of vegetation.
- **EF23/OF23 Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds.** To help farmland birds both survive through the ‘hungry gap’ and enter the breeding season in much improved condition.
- **EK20/OK20 Ryegrass seed-set as winter/spring food for birds (80 points/ha).** Provide food resource for birds through the winter and February ‘hungry gap’, and increase populations of invertebrates and small mammals.
- **EK21/OK21 Legume and herb rich swards (200 points/ha).** Create habitat and food for invertebrates, including pollinators. Improve soil structure and mitigate climate change. Provide high quality forage for livestock.
- **EB14/OB14 Hedgerow restoration (10 points/m).** To improve the condition of hedgerows and encourage management under long term laying / coppicing.



...and one new HLS option:

HF24 Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds (£822/tonne)

This option is used to provide winter food for seed-eating farmland birds through the ‘hungry gap’ period in late winter, before natural food resources become available again in late spring. This option is only available within HLS agreements that contain the minimum area of arable options required to meet the HLS Farmland Bird Package and where certain farmland bird species are present. Management includes spreading a tailored seed mixture at least weekly from January to April and keeping a record of the feeding carried out. The amount and type of feed will be determined by Natural England to support the target farmland birds present.



NB: All new options are subject to approval by the European Commission

Key Environmental Stewardship options for Resource Protection

Soil is your farm's most valuable resource as the foundation for production. The most productive components of your soil lie in the top three to six inches of the profile – the layer most vulnerable to erosion. Erosion and run-off can result in valuable nutrients and environmentally damaging sediments, pesticides and disease organisms reaching water.

What you can do to ensure cleaner water and healthier soil

- tackle the source
- slow the pathway
- protect the water body

(O)ELS options to tackle the source of soil erosion and run-off:

- EG1 Undersown spring cereals
- EJ2 Management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion
- EJ10 Enhanced management of maize crops to reduce soil erosion and run-off
- EJ13 Winter cover crops

*****Cover crops can reduce nitrate leaching by 50% enabling you to reduce fertiliser application, increase organic matter and potentially save money*****

(O)ELS options to slow the pathways of soil erosion and run-off:

- EB14 Hedgerow restoration
- EF1 Management of field corners
- EF7 Beetle banks
- EJ5 In-field grass areas to prevent erosion and run-off
- EK1 Take field corners out of management
- EK2 Permanent grass with low inputs
- EK3 Permanent grass with very low inputs
- EK4 Management of rush pastures
- EK21 Legume- and herb-rich swards

(O)ELS options to protect the water body

- EE9 6 m buffer strips on cultivated land next to a watercourse
- EE10 6 m buffer strips on intensive grassland next to a watercourse
- EJ9 12 m buffer strips for watercourses on cultivated land
- EJ11 Maintenance of watercourse fencing

For further information please contact:

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