



Catchment Management

The NFU Standpoint

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What are the big issues?

- Diffuse pollution legislative drivers:
 - Water Framework Directive - phosphates and pesticides
 - Drinking Water Inspectorate - nitrates and pesticides, particularly metaldehyde
- Waterbody function: drainage/conveyance vs biodiversity
- What are the local issues and what is the evidence?



Voluntary Farmer Initiatives

- CFE voluntary measures VM1-5 contribute positively to resource protection (buffer strips, in-field grass strips, maize management, watercourse fencing and winter cover crops) – partnerships need to liaise with CFE to ensure join-up
- Tried & Tested nutrient management planning, manure management and feed planning are being promoted through CFE
- CSF - knowledgeable advisors, practical solutions and time taken to see improvements



Voluntary Farmer Initiatives



a million voices for nature

THORNEY Farmland Bird Friendly Zone

Giving nature a chance



Farmers are our heroes

Much of our wildlife is struggling to survive, but it is being thrown a life-line by the amazing people who look after the land – farmers. They are rising to the challenge of making Britain's countryside a better place for nature. Using simple, important changes to the way they work, they're giving wildlife a chance to breed, feed, and make it through winter. As more and more land-managers join the farmland bird friendly zone, the more likely it is that our wildlife will bounce back and make all our lives richer.



Michael Slye's farm is part of the zone

Skylark plots
provide safe nesting sites and feeding areas for many birds, including skylarks, helping to keep these lovely little birds fluttering on high and singing their hearts out.



Winter seed mixes
feed the birds all through the coldest months, when birds face their hardest challenge – survival.



Nectar flowers
are crucial for insects, and for a healthy ecosystem – the nectar and the insects are food for many creatures.



A very special place

The farmland around Thorney, near Peterborough, is particularly productive for food, and it must remain so. But we also want to make it a productive place for the plants and animals that were once common here.

Within the Thorney farmland bird friendly zone, about 90-97% of the 3,500 hectares of farmland will remain devoted to crops, and the remaining 3-10% devoted to nature will be enough to give our precious and increasingly rare wildlife a vital helping hand.

Farmers rely on Environmental Stewardship Schemes to target six species of farmland birds – corn buntings, tree sparrows, turtle doves, lapwings, grey partridges and yellow wagtails – and other wildlife, within the zone.



Visitors who want to see birds and other wildlife in the zone are very welcome, but please keep to marked footpaths and other rights of way. See **OS Landranger Series Map 142** for details. Please keep dogs on leads. Areas within the zone are likely to change.

"I consider wildlife to be part of my farm business, and I try to cater for its needs, just as I would a crop of wheat" Zone farmer



Agri-Environment Schemes

Agri-Environment Scheme	Number of Agreements	Area of the county under agreement (hectares)	Payments over lifetime of agreement (£) ³	Percentage of county in agreement
Environmental Stewardship (ES) ¹ :				
• Entry Level Stewardship (ELS)	681	148,537	£4,159,668	43.7%
• Combined ELS and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) ²	101	28,041	£3,521,380	8.2%
• Higher Level Stewardship (HLS)	43	1,420	£450,448	0.4%
Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA)				0.0%
Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS)	99	1,803	612,893	0.5%
Grand Total	924	179,802	8,744,389	52.9%

Note 1 - All ES data includes conventional ES and Organic ES agreements.

Note 2 - For combined ELS/HLS, the area figure refers to total agreement area i.e. underpinning ELS area on which HLS options are located (not the area under HLS management).

Note 3 - Payment figures excludes payments for Capital Items and Conservation Plans.

Designated sites	Area of county designated (hectares)	Percentage of county designated (hectares)
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	7,323	2.2%
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	885	0.3%
Special Protection Areas (SPAs) (for birds)	3,290	1.0%
Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance)	3,941	1.2%





The Farmers' Way Forward

- Local evidence base – eg the Bourn Brook project
- Voluntary approaches:
 - CFE - Tried & Tested, Voluntary Initiative, GHGAP
 - CSF - Advice, planning (and capital grants)
- Agri-Environment schemes: availability of NELMS
- Wider catchment partnership working