

Agri-environment schemes – what have they achieved and where do we go from here?

in conjunction with
The British Ecological Society Agricultural Ecology Group

to be held at University of Leicester, Oadby, UK

on 27-29 April 2010

PROGRAMME

This conference has been awarded 16 BASIS points (10E, 6 PD)
(Record of attendance sheet with BASIS Ref. No. is at registration desk)

MONDAY 26 APRIL 2009

17.45- CONFERENCE REGISTRATION (JOHN FOSTER HALL RECEPTION)
18.45

19.30 DINNER

TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2009

08.30 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION & COFFEE (STAMFORD HALL)

Session 1: Setting the scene

Session organiser: NIGEL BOATMAN (FERA, York, UK)

09.25 **Introduction**

NIGEL BOATMAN (Food & Environment Research Agency, York, UK)

09.30 *Invited Speaker 1*

Preserving the Balance

ROBIN TUCKER (Natural England, UK)

10.00 *Invited Speaker 2*

Different approaches to agri-environment schemes in the EU-27

KALEY HART (Institute of European & Environmental Policy, London, UK)

Session 2: Monitoring methodology

Session Organiser: JON MARSHALL (Marshall Agronomy, Bristol, UK)

- 10.30 **Monitoring of agri-environment schemes in the UK**
NIGEL BOATMAN (Food & Environment Research Agency, York, UK)
- 10.50 **Grassland in agri-environment schemes – the science and the art**
STEPHEN PEEL (Natural England, Leeds, UK)
- 11.10 COFFEE
- 11.40 **Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) - developing a standard method for evaluation of agreements against objectives**
OWEN MOUNTFORD (NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxon, UK)
- 12.0 **Evaluating the performance of the Swiss agri-environmental measures for biodiversity: methods, results and questions**
PHILIPPE JEANNERET (Agroscope Reckenholz-Tanikon Research Station, Zurich, Switzerland)
- 12.20 **High Nature Value grassland assessment in Transylvania: management, monitoring and indicator species**
LAURA SUTCLIFFE (University of Göttingen, Germany)
- 12.40 DISCUSSION
- 12.50 LUNCH
- Session 3: Results of scheme monitoring**
Session Organiser: GAVIN SIRIWARDENA (BTO, Thetford, Norfolk, UK)
- 13.50 **Assessing the impact of Entry Level Stewardship on lowland farmland birds in England**
CATHERINE DAVEY (British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford, Norfolk, UK)
- 14.10 **Evaluating the English Higher Level Stewardship scheme for farmland birds**
ROB FIELD (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Sandy, Bedfordshire, UK)
- 14.30 **Review of agri-environment scheme monitoring in Northern Ireland**
MELANIE FLEXEN (Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Belfast, Northern Ireland)
- 14.50 **Agri-environment impacts and opportunities for summer bird communities on lowland Irish farmland**
ALEX COPLAND (BirdWatch Ireland, Banagher, Co. Offaly, Ireland)
- 15.10 **The role of desk review in assessing the potential for biodiversity delivery by the Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme in Wales**
TONY MORRIS (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Sandy, Beds, UK)
- 15.30 DISCUSSION

15.40 TEA

Session 4: Species-centred management

Session Organiser: GEERT DE SNOO (Leiden University, The Netherlands)

16.10 Grey partridge and agri-environment schemes: science, implementation and assessment

JULIE EWALD (The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Fordingbridge, Hants, UK)

16.30 Setting up an experimental restoration of the grey partridge and associated farmland

ANNELIE JONSSON (Lund University, Sweden)

16.50 Agri-environment schemes for the common hamster (*Cricetus cricetus*). Why is the Dutch project successful?

MAURICE LA HAYE (Radboud University Nijmegen/Alterra, Wageningen, The Netherlands)

17.10-17.20 DISCUSSION

18.00 *POSTER SESSION* (JUNIOR COMMON ROOM)

Development of an agri-environment option through research trials: Skylark Plots at Hope Farm

CHRIS BAILEY (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, UK)

The development of Farmland Bird Packages for arable farmers in England

RICHARD WINSPEAR (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Sandy, Bedfordshire, UK)

Improving floristically enhanced field margins for wildlife

A J MORRIS (Royal Society for the Protection of birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds, UK)

Management strategies to conserve the grey partridge: the effect on other farmland birds

ROGER DRAYCOTT (Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Ashfield Green Farm, Wickhambrook, Newmarket, Suffolk, UK)

“The agri-environmental programme in Austria”

ANJA PUCHTA (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Stabenring 1, Vienna 1012, Austria)

Creation and management of pollen and nectar habitats on farmland

RICHARD PYWELL (NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxon, UK)

Practical management of scarce arable plant populations

RICHARD PYWELL (NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxon, UK)

Time lags in biodiversity response to farming practices

GEORG ANDERSSON (University of Lund, Department of Animal Ecology, Lund, Sweden)

Simple and rapid biodiversity assessments (SARBAS): An evaluation method of Ireland's Agri-Environment Scheme

ALEX COPLAND (BirdWatch Ireland, Crank House, Banagher, Co. Offaly, Ireland)

Riparian margins: Can they deliver biodiversity goals in intensively managed grasslands?

LORNA COLE (SAC, Auchincruive, Ayr, UK)

Effect of hedge maturity on composition of invertebrate assemblages at a site in Lincolnshire

CHARLES DEEMING (Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Lincoln, Riseholme Park, Lincoln, UK)

An internet-accessible tool for drawing up tailor made management plans for meadow birds

DICK MELMAN (Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands)

In search of the most effective erosion control measure: Are Agri-Environment Schemes better than Farm Investment Support?

ANGELA BERGSCHMIDT (Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Braunschweig, Germany)

Designing multi-purpose habitats: utilisation of wild bird seed species by pollinating insects

RICHARD PYWELL (NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxon, UK)

Enhancing biodiversity in existing grass buffer strips

ROBIN BLAKE (University of Reading, UK)

The influence of wild bird seed mixture spatial distribution at the landscape scale on conservation potential to farmland birds in summer and winter

FRANCES DAVIS (The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, The Allerton Project, Loddington, UK)

Czech organic farmers' perception of landscape elements

B ŠARAPATKA (Olomouc, Czech Republic)

Considerate Farming Plan - a tool for nature and landscape protection on farms

STANISLAVA ČIŽKOVÁ (Bioinstitut, Czech Republic)

19.00 DINNER

WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 2009

Session 5: Option development and testing

Session Organiser: BARBARA SMITH (GWCT, Fordingbridge, Hants, UK)

08.40 **Options for wide scale enhancement of grassland biodiversity under the Entry Level Schemes**

RICHARD PYWELL (NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxon, UK)

09.00 **Maintaining diversity in flower enriched margins**
BARBARA SMITH (The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Fordingbridge, Hants, UK)

09.20 **Moorland management in Higher Level Stewardship: the evidence base for sustainable stocking rates**
DAVID GLAVES (Natural England, UK)

09.40 **Performance and effectiveness of winter bird food patches established under Environmental Stewardship: results from the Hillesden experiment**
SHELLEY HINSLEY (NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford, Oxon, UK)

10.00 **Optimal delay of harvest – implications for bird populations and economic compensation**
OLA OLSSON (Lund University, Sweden)

10.20 **Reducing the impacts of predation on ground-nesting waders: new landscape-scale solutions?**
THOMAS BODEY (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Lodge, Sandy, Beds, UK)

10.40 DISCUSSION

10.50 COFFEE

Session 6: Resource protection

Session Organiser: GEERT DE SNOO (Leiden University, The Netherlands)

11.20 **Assessing the impact of Environmental Stewardship on the protection of water resources**
CARMEL RAMWELL (Food & Environment Research Agency, York, UK)

11.40 **The use of Environmental Stewardship measures associated with the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative in tackling agricultural pollution impacting on sensitive habitats**
J GRISCHEFF (Natural England, UK)

12.00 **Can woodland measures in agri-environment policies assist in meeting Water Framework Directive objectives?**
KATRINA MORROW (ADAS, Wolverhampton, UK)

12.20 DISCUSSION

12.30 LUNCH

Session 7: Case Studies

Session organiser: NIGEL BOATMAN (Food & Environment research Agency, York, UK)

- 13.30 **Drivers of population increase on an arable farm delivering a comprehensive suite of measures for farmland birds**
TONY MORRIS (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Lodge, Sandy, Beds, UK)
- 13.50 **Rawcliffe Bridge 2003 to 2008, a five year summary**
GRAHAM HARTWELL (BASF plc, Crop Protection, Cheadle Hulme, UK)
- 14.10 **Where do we go from here? Combining biodiversity with ecosystem services through agri-environment schemes**
CHRIS STOATE (The Allerton Project, The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Loddington, Leics, UK)
- 14.30 FIELD TRIP TO LODDINGTON
- 17.45 RETURN FROM LODDINGTON
- 19.30 CONFERENCE DINNER

THURSDAY 29 APRIL 2009

Session 8: Landscape aspects

Session organizer: JOHN HOLLAND (GWCT, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, UK)

- 09.00 **Biodiversity and landscape ecology of agri-environment schemes**
HENRIK SMITH (Lund University, Sweden)
- 09.20 **Predicted effects of management on vascular plant species in arable field margins**
THERESE IRMINGER STREET (Lund University, Sweden)
- 09.40 **Relative effects of field- and landscape-scale intensification on farmland bird diversity in Mediterranean dry cereal croplands**
ELENA CONCEPCION (Instituto de Recursos Naturales, Madrid, Spain)
- 10.00 **The Farm4bioproject: maximising the potential of uncropped land**
JOHN HOLLAND (The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Fordingbridge, Hants, UK)
- 10.20 DISCUSSION
- 10.30 COFFEE

Session 9: Scheme design and implementation

Session Organiser: ALAN RENWICK (SAC, Edinburgh, UK)

- 11.00 **Agri-environmental programme in Finland serving biodiversity: working forward**
IRINA HERZON (University of Helsinki, Finland)

11.20 Implementation of Environmental Stewardship options – additionality and compliance

NAOMI JONES (Food & Environment Research Agency, York, UK)

11.40 Is Environmental Stewardship working for rare and threatened plants?

KATE STILL (Plantlife, Salisbury, Wilts, UK)

12.00 Are current agri-environment schemes suitable for long-term conservation of arable plants? A short review of different conservation strategies from Germany and brief remarks on the new project “100 fields for diversity”

STEFAN MEYER (Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany)

12.20 To cut or not to cut – that is the question for Swedish pasture managers

JOHAN AHNSTRÖM (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden)

12.40 Potential application of the Farm Advisory System for successful implementation of agri-environmental schemes

VINCENZO ANGILERI (European Commission)

13.00 DISCUSSION

13.10 LUNCH

Session 10: Options for the future

Session Organiser: MIKE GREEN (Natural England, Leeds, UK)

14.10 Benchmarking biodiversity performances of farmers

GEERT DE SNOO (Leiden University, The Netherlands)

14.30 A market-based payment scheme for plant diversity in farming systems

LENA ULBER (Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany)

14.50 The Campaign for the Farmed Environment - a joined up future for agri-environment schemes

CORRINA GIBBS (National Farmers Union, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, UK)

15.10 Where next for Agri-environment schemes, evolution or revolution?

STEPHEN CHAPLIN (Natural England, UK)

15.30 DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF AES

16.10 TEA & DEPART