

Winchester Downs Cluster

Operational Management Plan

Target	Habitats and Land management	Outcomes	Training and what's needed to deliver this	Progress
		What do you want to achieve	How do we achieve this	Objectives achieved
Arable	Soil and water	Improved resource management, meaning - Improved soil condition (SOM, Soil Structure, reduced soil erosion), greater awareness of reduced and alternative inputs; and impact of green break crops. Increased use of pasture in rotations, carbon sequestration and a measure soil of carbon.	Improved soil condition advice, also independent local advice on cover cropping & dissemination of best practice Testing of Soil Organic Matter, Science based metric of soil health. Pond creation and restoration mapping and funding options	
	Hedges and field edges	A better connected hedge network with a variety of hedge sizes and management that is functional and sensitive to wildlife and landscape. Continuation of and improved quality and connectivity of field margins created under ELS / HLS. Establishment and management of good habitats for Wildlife, farmland birds and Shooting	Hedge management training and advice on support with creation, laying and subsequent management. Farm conservation advice, training and continued financial support on establishing and managing field margins. Support Farmers into new CS / Agri-environment schemes. Share lessons learnt with group. All members to contribute to the Big Farmland Bird Count and share wildlife records	
Grassland	Species rich grasslands, restoration meadows, wildflower strips, chalk downland & wooded pasture	Maintain, create and restore wildflower rich grasslands in a way that fits a commercial farming system. Managing grazing, wildflower enhancement, scrub re-growth, and woodland on downland and wooded pasture sites; within limits of time and budget Co-operative or contract grazing supporting meadow restoration and increasing a return to mixed farming	Identify areas of grassland suitable for restoration or under restoration and in need of advice. Training in species rich grassland restoration and management. Need site based advice and management plans. Develop local grazing networks through making tailored restoration plans and communicating within the group.	

Woodland	Woodland management, for wildlife and / or timber.	<p>Managing woodlands for wildlife through creating wider better connected rides, glades and graded woodland edges.</p> <p>Managing a long term sustainable timber crop potential while creating the optimal environment for wildlife, and reasonable economic return.</p> <p>Maintain and restore small areas of woodland which on their own maybe too small to be part of an F.C scheme but have a valuable local contribution to the environment in that area.</p>	<p>Identify areas of woodland suitable for restoration or in need of advice.</p> <p>Training in managing woodland for wildlife and shooting Providing training in woodland management for sustainable timber production and creating management reports</p> <p>Aggregation to make small scale coppicing viable. Linking to local contractors, and communicating within the group.</p>	
Rivers	River habitat & Water quality	River habitat management, resource protection and improve multi-functional land use.	<p>Need training and advice in riverine habitat management, water quality and flood management. Engage with Wessex Chalk Streams and partners.</p> <p>Identify areas suitable for restoration and in need of advice. Work with landowners and partners, then feedback to the group.</p>	
	Flood meadows and fen	<p>River, flood meadow, fen and riparian habitats managed in a joined up way along the Upper Itchen.</p> <p>Co-operative or contract grazing supporting meadow restoration and resource protection</p>	<p>Need site based advice and management plans.</p> <p>Develop local grazing networks through making tailored restoration plans and communicating within the group.</p>	
Community	Awareness and Promotion	<p>Communicate to wider population the activity undertaken and benefits provided by farmers & landowners.</p> <p>Where feasible support school, non-school (such as Beavers/Scouts/Young Farmers) and adult education visits to create a greater understanding of farming, the countryside and the environment.</p> <p>Engage with skilled visitors e.g. Southampton Natural History Society, local ecologists, trainee naturalists</p>	<p>Provide greater PR in media to create more understanding in general public. Share progress and successes within the partnership, then publicise aggregated information.</p> <p>Identify mechanisms to support. (incl. H&S issues, Help on farm visit days, link with Country Trust)</p> <p>Develop network of groups – liaise to enable groups to contact farmers. Share information generated within the group.</p>	
	Historic Environment	<p>Work to remove identified Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMS) from historic risk register</p> <p>More recognition for historic features such as barns</p>	<p>Provide advice and support to enable removal of SAMS from Historic risk register. Where there is conflict between NE/EH on management, provide assistance or resolve.</p> <p>Identify buildings and historic features under threat</p>	