

Module 2 Habitat and species management

Key farmland habitats, the species that they support, and the measures required to protect, link and enhance these areas.

Wildlife and biodiversity policy

Biodiversity 2020 A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services

Priority: Improve delivery of environmental outcomes from agricultural land management practices, whilst increasing food production

- Over 70% of England is farmed - agricultural land management practices - important influences on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Shapes landscapes contribute significantly to UK economy.
- Farmers and land managers play a vital role, not only as food suppliers, but also as the stewards of our countryside.
- Cooperation is crucial in achieving our ambitions for biodiversity.
- Potential tensions exist between improving the environment and increasing food production and this requires all interested parties to work together.

Biodiversity net gain (BNG)

- Contributes to the recovery of nature while developing land.
- Leaves habitat for wildlife in a better state than before development.
- From Nov. 2023 in Town & Country Planning Act 1990, unless exempt.
- It will apply to small sites from April 2024.
- Maintained for 30 years
- Plus 10%
- Any planning application not including permitted. development

BNG will apply if you're a:

- land manager
- developer
- local planning authority (LPA)

If you're a land manager

- You can get paid by selling biodiversity units.
- You must be a land manager with:
 - land in England
 - consent to register land if you're not the landowner
 - a legal agreement for the land you're registering

Section 41 habitats and species examples

Priority Habitats include:

- Ponds
- Arable Field Margins
- Hedgerows
- Traditional Orchards
- Upland Hay Meadows
- Coastal and Food plains
- Grazing Marsh

Priority Species include:

- Yellow hammer
- Reed Bunting
- Corn Bunting
- Grey Partridge (-87%)
- Lapwing (-58%)
- Skylark (-51%)
- Linnet
- Brown Hare
- Dormouse
- Greater Horseshoe Bat

Six Simple Steps for Managing Biodiversity on your Land**Monitoring**

- Step 1 Identify habitats
- Step 2 Identify key species

Management

- Step 3 Manage farmland sympathetically
- Step 4 Be pro-active in your management of habitats

Enhancement

- Step 5 Enhance existing habitats and populations
- Step 6 Work with others

Step 1 - Identify habitats**A habitat map can be the easiest way to do this and should include:**

- Areas and sites on farm with statutory protection or designation.
- Areas and sites on farm where important species or populations are present.
- Lakes, ponds and watercourses.
- Semi-natural habitats (e.g. moorland, wetlands, lowland heath, species-rich grassland, broad-leaved woodland, forest etc.).
- Linear features (e.g. hedges, verges, fence lines, farm borders, field margins, walls, ditches, tracks etc.).
- Point features (e.g. in field trees, ponds etc.).
- Public rights of way.
- Archaeological or historical sites.

Step 2 - Identify key species

- Identify four priority species to see growth, your conservation efforts around these.
- Ensure bees and other pollinators are monitored as well as soil biodiversity.
- Identify protected or priority species on land and any particular threats to these.
- Critical to monitor and track any invasive species on your farm
- Different species require different techniques for monitoring.
- Some species require a licence or specialist experience.
- Take photos, involve farm staff and local interest and biodiversity groups
- Link the species identified to your habitat map.
- Link information to wider initiatives such as Biodiversity Action Plans in your area.
- Conservation plans and around priority species will benefit further species.

Step 3 - Manage farmland sympathetically

- Biodiversity affected by a wide range of factors.
- Changes to soil, water and air can have direct and indirect impacts on species.
- Manage these resources & minimise any negative impacts from agricultural activities.
- Reducing soil run-off from the land is important for water quality
- Soil particles can smother spawning grounds and hold phosphate and PPP.
- Sustainable soil management and good soil structure will reduce run-off and associated diffuse water pollution.
- Biodiversity provides a wealth of beneficial organisms.
- Use Integrated Pest Management techniques across farm to minimise chemical use.

Step 4 – Be pro-active in management of habitats & species

- Biodiversity should be managed with outcomes – increase in species
- Have a 5-year action plan
- Get staff involved
- Know the species life cycle
- Follow best practice for margins, hedges and watercourses
- Ensure The Big Three are in place
- Manage invasive species – correctly identification
- Improve habitat – bat boxes – beetle banks – refuge for predators

Step 5 - Enhance existing habitats and populations

- Improve existing habitats and ensure they fit with Landscape and Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan
- Look at Innovative ways of managing and promoting biodiversity
- Aim for bigger, better and more connected habits
- Plan farm and inter farm connectivity with biodiversity
- Provide a biodiversity in habitat to improve ecosystems
- Look at micro habitats within field margins, hedges and ditches
- Set smart objectives to monitor biodiversity performance

Step 6 - Work with others

- Working with others - max your understanding of the habitats and species.
- Conservation & biodiversity groups, neighbouring farmers and the local community.
- Staff are aware of Landscape & Nature Conservation and Enhancement Plan.
- Ensure advisers & contractors are aware of specific plans and overall aims.
- Farmers within catchment - improve water quality and health of biodiversity
- Local communities, host a farm walk, specialist experience
- Local schools, get them involved, aware, open farm Sunday

Habitat creation and management

- Even agriculturally improved grasslands, modifications can be made to improve the habitat for wildlife.
- Increasing plant diversity in productive swards results in a greater variation of sward structure, and this can be achieved by the inclusion of even just a couple of species other than ryegrass.

- Timothy, cocksfoot & red fescue generally suitable species.
- Adding legumes or herbs to sward can be more beneficial.
- Mechanical operations spreading, rolling, topping and harrowing can be particularly damaging to ground-nesting birds in the spring so, wherever possible, they should be timed before or after the breeding season in fields with breeding birds.
- Similarly, timing of mowing for silage is important.
- Early mowing, whether for hay or silage, can destroy eggs and chicks, so late mowing is preferable.
- Later mowing will also allow flowering, providing pollen and nectar sources for grassland invertebrates.
- If some plants can be left to go to seed, this will provide food for birds late into the year, and even through the winter.
- Leaving uncut margins and corners in grass fields provides a refuge for wildlife from farm operations.
- Structural, tussocky areas are good habitat for voles and other small mammals, which are preyed upon by owls and kestrels.
- Invertebrates, including pollinators and other beneficial invertebrates, will also benefit from these uncut areas

Field Margins / Buffer Strips

- Benefit range of farm wildlife species
- Sow tussocky grass mixture, including wildflowers to benefit nectar feeders, or cultivating margins for rare arable plants
- Aim for mosaic of patches of taller and shorter vegetation around the farm, cut infrequently once established and do not cut in summer.

UKHab

- UK Habitat Classification is a new, free-to-use, unified and comprehensive approach to classifying habitats, designed to provide a simple and robust approach to survey and monitoring for the 21st century.
- The new classification, which covers terrestrial and freshwater habitats, is flexible enough for use in a wide range of survey types from walkover surveys of small urban sites to regional and national scale rural habitat mapping.
- The classification, which includes a comprehensive Professional Edition and an abridged Basic Edition, will be a valuable tool for species and habitat research, ecological impact, ecosystem services and biodiversity net gain assessments.

UKHab and Survey Apps

CREATE

- Create projects to collect spatial data — polygons, lines and points
- Pre-survey at home or in the office using high-quality imagery

RECORD

- Record UKHab primary habitat features and secondary codes
- Access habitat codes, names and definitions directly on device
- Optionally assess habitat condition for Biodiversity Metric
- Add photos and text notes linked to your record

ANALYSE

- View an interactive map dashboard on desktop at home or office
- Download data for use in mapping software
- Export your data into the standard UKHab data model
- Export data including areas, distinctiveness and condition outcomes for the BNG Metric Calculator

Boundary Features

Hedgerows Trees

- Huge number of invertebrates available for birds (high protein for chicks) and bats
- Nesting hole for birds / small mammals
- Benefits will vary depending on the tree species – Oak / Conifer

The Complete Hedge

- Wide margins - strips or headlands
- Mature trees, shrub layer, base/bank, ditch
- Secure nesting, summer food (especially invertebrates) and winter food (especially berries and seeds) high protein and carbohydrates
- Vital habitat in farmed landscapes
- No one hedge can provide optimal requirements for all birds
- Can support a wide range of birds, including species that are *red-listed in the UK, such as grey partridge turtle dove, song thrush, tree sparrow, linnet, curl bunting and yellowhammer
- together with others like kestrel, rook and whitethroat make-up the 'Farmland Bird Indicator', used by Government to assess the success of its policies relating to farmland biodiversity.
- Carbon sequestration
- Birds
- Shelter – nesting – predation avoidance
- Food – berries – seeds- nuts – fruit
- Beneficial and pollinator insects
- Key components for farm birds
- Mature Trees – Oak huge biodiversity
- Shrub layer
- Bank / Base A shaped
- Ditch
- Margin – buffer strips - headlands
- Planting mixed native species- blackthorn – hawthorn – guelder rose hazel – rosa
- Linking landscape
- Cut– Jan/Feb - rotational 3 yr cycle providing winter food
- Height – varied 1.5 – 4m
- Rejuvenate – layering – coppicing
- Grey partridge 1.5m
- Turtle dove 4m +
- Song thrush 1.5m
- Tree sparrow
- Linnet
- Curl bunting
- Yellow hammer

Role of hedgerows:

- Among most important remaining areas of semi-natural habitat on lowland farmland.
- Many are ancient and of historical interest, and all hedgerows able to provide a host of resources for wildlife: food, shelter, nesting sites, refuge from farm operations and corridors across the landscape.
- A whole range of wildlife species, common as well as rare and declining, depend on hedgerows for their survival.

On going maintenance

- Hedgerows still lost but, over recent years, this has been due more to neglect or harmful management, particularly repeated annual cutting to the same height for many years, rather than grubbing out.
- Many remaining hedgerows are in poor condition.
- Main problems are excessive gaps, a structure that is too short or too thin (especially at the hedge base), or low fruit / berry production.
- Need to be rejuvenated through laying or coppicing, as well as cut on a rotation that allows growth and flowering,

Benefits of Farm Hedgerows & Good Hedgerow Management

- Shelter & habitat for multiple species of mammals & insects
- Food for pollinators when in flower & seed and berries for birds in winter
- Corridor for wildlife to move around farm
- Contributes to biodiversity on farm
- Cut in Jan / Feb
- Only cut 1/3 of hedges each year
- Cut A shape
- Leave tussocky strip at base between hedge & crop or fence
- Larger hedges provide more nesting sites

Hedgerows Management Summary

- Cut hedges on a rotation and do not cut more than once every three years
- Will allow growth and fruiting of hedge
- Aim for hedgerows of different heights around the farm
- Will provide a variety of suitable habitats for different birds and mammals
- Lay or coppice hedges to rejuvenate them giving them a new lease of life
- Avoid repeated cutting to the same height
- Relaxing the cutting regime encourages a dense growth of healthy hedgerow stems
- Use mixture of native species, preferably those that are locally common
- Will provide the best food resources for wildlife, and fit best in the landscape
- Where possible, try to link areas of woodland, other hedges or semi-natural habitats
- Hedgerows can help wildlife move through the landscape from one patch of habitat to another

Endangered birds supported by hedges All Red List

- Grey Partridge
- Turtle Dove
- Song Thrush
- Tree Sparrow
- Linnet
- Cirl Bunting
- Yellow Hammer

Hedge Regulations

Defra has said the following will be introduced:

2m buffer strip from the centre of hedgerows, with no cultivation or application of pesticides or fertilisers

Hedge cutting ban between: 1 March and 31 August to protect nesting birds.

Importance of ditches

Wildlife

Water Management

- Aim for a range of ditch bank profiles, steeper areas and shallower areas - Species have different requirements
- Create some places where grazing animals can access ditches, but restricting access in others is also important
- Some cattle poaching can be very good for ditch wildlife, but water voles need dense bank vegetation and benefit from fenced areas
- Aim to have field margins and hedgerows next to ditches
- Provides a greater complexity of wildlife habitat and buffers the ditch

Ditch Management

- Clear ditches in autumn or winter on 3-5 yr rotation
- Will reduce disturbance to wildlife
- Clear on a little and often basis
- Leave areas from which species can re-colonise
- Leave some areas undisturbed at any one time
- Keep pesticides, fert. & other inputs away from ditches
- Water quality is crucial for wildlife

Pollination - Key Facts

- Insect pollinators provide a valuable 'pollination service' for certain crops estimated to be worth £630 million annually to British agriculture.
- Bees visit flowers for nectar (sugar for flying) and pollen (protein for their young).
- Type of flower a bee visits is controlled by factors such as colour, shape, scent.
- Length of a bee's tongue determines the ability to gain flower access.
- Solitary bees transport dry pollen on their body, possibly making them more efficient pollinators than bumblebees and honeybees.

Pollinators

- Small mammals sustaining ecosystem - produce natural resources by helping plants to reproduce
- Approx. 75% – 95% of all flowering plants need pollinators
- Without pollinators we would have food shortages
- Encourage pollinators enhancing habitats woodlands, flowering plants and hedgerows
- Reducing use of pesticides
- Field margins with wildflowers provide food and shelter

Grassland

Five main types of semi-natural grassland in England:

- limestone (calcareous) grasslands,
- marshy grasslands
- acid grasslands
- lowland meadows and pastures
- upland hay meadows

Chalk downland

- Chalk downland is often unsuitable for intensive agriculture nutrient- poor, shallow soil and difficult slopes.
- For this reason, it has often survived uncultivated; however, its shallow soil structure makes it extremely fragile and easy to destroy.
- Decline of extensive grazing has meant that many areas of downland have reverted to scrub or other less rare habitat.
- Chalk downland needs to be managed carefully to safeguard unique flora and fauna.
- Ideal grazing regimes create varied turf structure with some short and some tall areas, with the precise level of grazing depending on the interests of the site.

Acid grasslands

- Acid grasslands are less well known than lowland meadows or limestone grasslands.
- They tend to occur as mosaics with lowland heathland.
- The tussocky vegetation and bare ground that characterise lowland acid grassland allow a wide range of invertebrates to thrive including solitary wasps, butterflies and moths
- In some areas, such as Breckland, soil disturbance is an important part of conservation management to help these species thrive.

Lowland hay meadows

- Lowland hay meadows that are rich in wildflowers are a rare and irreplaceable habitat.
- Closing fields off from grazing livestock allows broad-leaved plants to flower and seed, providing summer food for seedeaters like linnets, and nectar and pollen for insects.
- The continuation of haymaking provides a greater diversity of wildflowers, habitats for insects and mammals, and food for birds.

Managing grassland

- Managing grassland with low or very low inputs, soil erosion and run off from the farm can be reduced.
- Permanently grassed areas will slow down the flow of water on natural drainage pathways and reduce the channelling of runoff water, which can produce rills and gullies.
- Grassland managed or retained with little, or no fertiliser has a greater value to wildlife, such as butterflies and bees, and will sustain a wider variety of plants.
- Permanent grassland is also an important historical feature demonstrating how farming has shaped our landscape over the centuries.

Wet grassland

- Highly valuable habitat for range of plant and animal species.
- Important for wintering and breeding wildfowl and waders.
- Support a rich variety of other wildlife, including dragonflies and damselflies, water beetles, and wetland vegetation.
- Usually managed by grazing, mowing, or both, and timing of management, intensity and frequency, influence the habitat.
- Some species-rich wet grasslands, such as floodplain meadows, have been managed in the same way for hundreds of years, and care should be taken not to change this.

Grassland

Key principles behind different grazing regimes

- extensive grazing – greater diversity of habitat conditions for flora and fauna
- mob grazing - all plants get nibbled, leads to greater diversity in plant species.
- differences between key livestock types and how they graze,
- Large herbivores such as cows can trample vegetation and take larger, less-specific bites when grazing, whereas smaller ruminants such as sheep are much more selective and less heavy footed
- impact they can have on sward structure
- composition
- different timings of grazing.
- potential benefits and impacts of livestock
- grassland management systems on soil health,
- soil structure and soil biology,
- the subsequent influence on water quality and carbon sequestration.
- different leys can influence soil health and livestock production.
- use of specific agri-environment options for grassland farming systems

Rotational Grazing

- Common approach to sustainable grazing.
- Involves the division of a large pasture into [two or more smaller paddocks](#), and the grazing between them is in a planned sequence.
- The herd grazes in some paddocks, the other paddocks have a chance to rest and regenerate.
- Often, rotational grazing reduces to shifting animals from one paddock to another based on time schedules rather than in response to forage regrowth rates.

Strip Grazing

- Involves a movable electric fence that helps guide and push cattle along a strip of land.
- Can make the forage last longer because you can make them graze what you want them to feed for a short period.
- Usually, no back fencing is in place for this type of grazing, so farmers will start in an area nearest to the water source to reduce waste.

Continuous Grazing

- Animals have access to a particular land area without restrictions or interruptions throughout an entire year or just part of the grazing season.
- Mimics natural grazing, which is part of regenerative agriculture.
- All the gates in the farm are open for all herds to eat forage as they please.
- This can encourage livestock only to eat the best forage possible, which is why this grazing method is often used for racehorses and dairy cows.

Creep Grazing

- Works best if you have both smaller and larger livestock, like a herd of sheep or goats and cattle.
- It also works well for a mixture of younger and older livestock.
- The smaller and younger animals are given access to high quality food utilizing a small creep gate.
- This especially helps younger animals supplement their mother's milk, reducing energy requirements for the mother cows.

Forward Grazing

- Forward grazing involves two groups of livestock in one paddock, one group directly following the other.
- The first group usually consists of animals with higher nutritional requirements, like growing calves and animals with dietary needs.
- This allows the first group to forage more selectively.
- The second group follows the first and has lower nutritional requirements.
- They feed on any leftovers from the first group

Mob Grazing

- Method of ultra-high density grazing that involves a large concentration of animals grazing a specific, small area for a short time.
- Animals moved between regions multiple times per day with more extended rest periods.
- Farmer allows the animals to graze the paddocks up to three times per year, and animals are forced to eat everything.

Mixed Grazing

- Mixed or multi-species grazing, allows livestock of different species to graze together on the same pasture either as one herd or using the forward grazing method.
- Different types of livestock enjoy different types of forage.
- A way to control weeds and other undesirable plants that cattle or horses may not eat.
- Increases the utilization of the land.

Grazing Sustainably

- Know your land and livestock forage requirements and find a balance between the animals, soil and plants.
- Rotating pastures, allowing grazing areas to renew, building native grass populations and supplementing with feed.
- Find what works best for you, your livestock and your land to make it the most sustainable, efficient and productive.

Grassland

grassland production systems

- haymaking
- silage production
- benefit the environment

potential environmental impacts can be minimised

Beetle Bank

- A raised ridge between 3 – 5m wide and 0.4m high
- Covered in dense tussocky cover – (Timothy, Cocks Foot)

Purpose:

- Provides nesting and foraging habitat for insects, bumble bees, small mammals, farmland birds

How to create a Beetle bank

- September best month to establish grass sward which forms a beetle bank.
- Plough furrows that point towards each other from either side during cultivation of the field to create a raised bank of about 0.4 metres along the plough line.
- The headland at each end of the beetle bank can remain cropped.
- Ensure grass mix includes a high % of tussock-forming species.
- All species should be of native origin.
- Broadcast seed immediately after cultivation to get good establishment.
- 3 cuts may be necessary in first summer, when sward reaches 10 cm in height.
- This encourages grasses to tiller and helps control invasive annual weeds.
- Once established, only cut the grass strips to get the dead tussocks to regenerate.
- This is likely to be no more than once every three years

Species

- Habitat – Shelter – Nesting – Safety against predation
- hedges – banks – buffer zone – trees – uncropped sections – grass leys – hay meadows – marsh / wetlands – ditches - beetle banks
- Food Source – summer – winter – high protein for chicks –
- Seeds – fruit – nuts – insects – nectar rich flowers

Grey Partridge

- Tussocky field margins / verges / beetle banks
- Usually found in open farmland
- Chicks feed exclusively on insects
- Avoid use of insecticides to protect insect population

Brown Hare

- Like wide open spaces
- Long grass and hedges for cover
- Eat young shoots such as grass
- March - April, boxing & chasing each other on open fields.
- Prefer mix of arable and grassland fields, some woodland, a mixture of vegetation height, and some large uniform fields.
- More common in eastern counties, and on arable farms.
- Number of funding options benefit hares

Brown Hare Management Summary Arable

- A mix of crops such as wheat and beet, with some grass is good for hares. Overwintered stubbles are especially valuable. *Hares can find food and cover at different times of year.*
- Beetle banks or strips of grass across arable fields are valuable, also taking field corners out of management. *Provide extra cover for hares*
- Plant game cover and wild bird seed crops. *Helps provide food and cover for hares and other wildlife*

Brown Hare Management Summary Grassland

- Try to leave some areas uncut and/or ungrazed - *Provides areas for leverets to hide*
- When making silage, cut from the field centre outwards - *Allows hares to escape the farm machinery*

Brown Hare Management Summary Landscape

- Hares thrive in mix of arable and grass fields and non-cropped areas such as small woodlands *Provides food and cover for hares throughout the year*

Dormouse

- Wide hedgerows, infrequently cut, will benefit small mammals
- Grassy field margins and ditches provide food and cover
- Hedgerows and margins linking areas of woodland are especially valuable
- Reducing pesticides within the crop, as in conservation headlands, helps small mammals

Water Voles & Otters

Key points

- Dependent on freshwater habitats such as rivers, streams and ditches
- Water vole conservation focuses on improving bankside habitats and controlling the non-native American mink
- Otters need high quality river environments

Birds

- Wide hedgerows, infrequently cut, will benefit small mammals
- Grassy field margins and ditches provide food and cover
- Hedgerows & margins linking areas of woodland are especially valuable
- Reducing PPP in crop, in conservation headlands, helps small mammals
- Farmland birds are continuing to decline
- Need safe nesting habitat, summer food and winter food (provided by seed and insect-rich areas): these are often referred to as the 'big three' for farmland birds.
- Range of measures, supported by Agri-environment scheme funding, can help provide these requirements

Lapwings

- Nest on bare ground with short vegetation
- Eat worms, snails, spiders.
- Chicks feed on small snails, insect larvae
- Like area of damp grassland

Skylarks

- Nest in arable crops - need bare areas to land
- Nest in vegetation 20 – 50cm high
- Chicks feed on insects & spiders
- Adults eat insects & spiders in summer & weeds & crop seeds

Include spring cereals in rotation:

- Create skylark plots
- Beetle Banks
- Weedy overwintered stubbles
- What funding is available?

Bats

- **Key points**
- Have complex needs, and different species have different requirements
- Important habitats for bats are water, woodland, grassland and linear features such as tree lines
- Protecting these habitats safeguards bat roosting, commuting and feeding areas

Bats Management Summary Water Bodies

- Ponds, ditches, streams and rivers are all important *Many bats feed or rely on emergent aquatic invertebrates.*
- Both shaded and open parts of ponds and rivers are valuable *Different bat species prefer to hunt in different ways*
- Manage for a range of vegetation types *Will encourage abundant invertebrate prey*

Bats Management Summary Woodland

- Ancient woodland is especially important – keep old trees. *Provides roosting and foraging opportunities for many bats*
- Avoid clear-felling, coppice on long rotation where coppicing is traditional management *Some rarer bats are predominantly woodland species - Rides, glades and clearings are valuable woodland features*

Bats Management Summary Grassland

- Cattle grazed pasture especially important *Encourages a rich insect fauna for bats to feed on*
- Reduce inputs and vary vegetation height and structure; retain hedgerows

Bats Management Summary

Treelines, hedgerow trees & tall hedges

- Retain treelines, protect hedgerow trees, allow hedges to grow tall. *Linear features are important for helping bats move through the landscape, and can be rich feeding areas*

Species

Best practice for vermin control

IPM Hierachy::

Know your pest

- Remove food source
- Remove Water
- Remove harbourage
- Block up access
- Encourage predation
- Live traps
- Snap traps
- Baiting – follow the CRRU – Qualification – Assurance Scheme

Species

- Identify a range of important non-native invasive species and demonstrate an understanding of the threats they pose and main management control methods for key examples.

Why commensal rodents need to be managed

- Damage – buildings – electrics - equipment
- Diseases – Leptospirosis (Wiel's disease) Rat Urine see handout
- Food spoilage / contamination - Salmonella
- Damage to crops
- Prevention of Damage by Pest Act 1949 see legislation
- Public Health Act 1936 and 1961
- Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulation 2006
- Health & Safety at Work Act 1974

Farmers' four options for rodent control:

- Membership of a stewardship-approved farm assurance scheme
- Do training, pass an exam, get your own proof of competence.
- Employ a qualified pest control contractor...CRRU Wildlife Aware qualified
- Use products permitted for 'amateur use' (max 300g units lower % ai)
- Permanent baiting 'just-in-case' is NOT allowed.

CRRU Code. (Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use)

7 point code is:

- Always have a planned approach
- Always record quantity of bait used and where it is placed
- Always use enough baiting points
- Always collect and dispose of rodent bodies
- Never leave bait exposed to non-target animals and birds
- Never fail to inspect bait regularly
- Never leave bait down at the end of the treatment

Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme

- Plays a key role in investigating the effects of pesticides on animals and environment.
- Investigates around 150 cases /yr, over a third of these attributed to pesticides.
- In many cases, the pesticides have not been correctly used and may result in enforcement action, such as a criminal prosecution.
- In these cases, the team can provide expert witness statements.

- Badger 24
- Barn Owl 220
- Buzzard 196
- Cat 77
- Crow 26
- Dog 23
- Fox 100
- Peregrine 20
- Pigeon 21
- Red Kite 97