

# Swindon BAP Farmland Action Plan - Incorporates Lowland Neutral Meadow, Calcareous Grassland and Arable Farmland

## Objective AGRO1: Achieve favourable management of all known farmland sites of importance for biodiversity

Target	Target Measure	Action	Action Measure	Partners	Action Deadline	Links to Other Plans	Comments
ARGT1: Determine the extent of farmland habitat of importance for biodiversity, in Swindon Borough.	Map/report produced that details current knowledge of distribution of farmland species, thus showing farmland habitat of importance for biodiversity in Swindon Borough.	AGRA1: Survey arable farmland in the North Wessex Downs AONB for priority plant species.	Continued survey results provided to the WSBRC and map produced annually.	FWAG, AONB	2014		
		AGRA2: Collate survey data for priority farmland birds in Swindon Borough.	Map produced annually.	Swindon BAP Coordinator, RSPB, BTO, WOS, WSBRC	2010		Possible volunteer project.
		AGRA3: Create a volunteer project to bring together all current information on urban fringe, ELS, HLS, historical records etc.	Volunteer in place	WWT, WSBRC	2010		Outputs from this volunteer project would include producing an easy-to-use checklist of farmland species for farmers/land managers to use to report species present on their farm.
		AGRA4: Develop an award/certificate scheme to recognise farmers' participation in species recording, raising awareness of the species on their land.	Scheme in place.	Farmland HAP Working Group			
AGRT2: Protect and maintain calcareous grassland.	Measure 1: 75% of 2009 number of calcareous grassland County Wildlife Sites in Swindon Borough are in favourable condition by 2015.  Measure 2: 100% of calcareous grassland SSSIs in Swindon Borough achieve favourable condition by 2015. NE/CWS Project.	AGRA5: Continue to monitor unimproved calcareous grassland sites that are currently a CWS.	100% of sites are visited.	NE, CWS project	2015		
		AGRA6: Monitor the condition of the Coombs SSSI at Hinton Parva, and ensure that measures are put in place to maintain favourable condition.	Favourable condition assessment achieved throughout the life of this plan.	NE,	Ongoing		

Target	Target Measure	Action	Action Measure	Partners	Action Deadline	Links to Other Plans	Comments
AGRT3: Protect and maintain neutral grassland.	<p><u>Measure 1:</u> 80% of the 2009 area of unimproved neutral grassland County Wildlife Sites are in favourable condition by 2015.</p> <p><u>Measure 2:</u> Two unimproved neutral grassland SSSI sites in Swindon Borough achieve favourable condition by 2015. NE/CWS Project.</p>	<p><u>AGRA7:</u> Ensure 80% of CWS are in favourable condition and under active management to maintain and enhance biodiversity.</p>	80% of current CWS area, in favourable condition and managed effectively for biodiversity.	SBC, <b>CWS Project</b>	2015		
		<p><u>AGRA8:</u> Ensure 100% of neutral grassland SSSIs in Swindon Borough are in favourable condition.</p>	Favourable condition assessment achieved throughout the life of this plan.	NE	2015		

### Objective AGRO2: Restore and enhance farmland habitats

Target	Target Measure	Action	Action Measure	Partners	Action Deadline	Links to Other Plans	Comments
AGRT4: Enhance farmland habitats for biodiversity	<p><u>Measure 1:</u> Mitigation schemes for major development areas increase the biodiversity of the farmland habitat.</p> <p><u>Measure 2:</u> Swindon Borough is included in the 'Campaign for the Farmed Environment' as a priority area.</p> <p><u>Measure 3:</u> 7-10% of arable farmland within North Wessex downs project area, in 'in-field' options targeted at arable biodiversity.</p>	<p><u>AGRA9:</u> Ensure that the draft Agricultural Management Plan for Wichelstowe is finalised and delivered.</p>	Agricultural Management Plan finalised by March 2010 and delivered as per agreement.	<b>GWCF</b>	2026		
		<p><u>AGRA10:</u> Lobby Country Landowners' Association (CLA) for Swindon to be included.</p>	Swindon Borough to be included in the Campaign for the Farmed Environment as a priority area.	<b>RSPB</b> , WWT, Swindon BAP Partnership	2010		
		<p><u>AGRA11:</u> Target key farmers to take up HLS with appropriate arable options.</p>	7-10% of arable farmland within North Wessex Downs (NWD) project area, in in-field options.	<b>South West Farmland Birds Initiative (SWFBI)</b>	Mar-11		

Target	Target Measure	Action	Action Measure	Partners	Action Deadline	Links to Other Plans	Comments
AGRT5: Restore Farmland habitats	Measure 1: The restoration of degraded neutral meadows is included in Green Infrastructure strategies for relevant major developments.	AGRA12: Ensure that restoration of degraded neutral meadows is included in GI strategies for relevant major developments.	Restoration of degraded neutral meadows included in GI strategies for relevant major developments.				To be refined as individual major developments come forward, probably from 2015.
	Measure 2: Restore 25% of degraded calcareous chalk grassland (AONB strategy).	AGRA13: Develop action plans to restore semi-improved and degraded areas of calcareous grassland, especially where they abut, link or buffer existing habitat.	Action plans in place to restore 25% of sites by 2015.	Farmland HAP Steering Group	2015		Through existing incentives schemes, recreate calcareous grassland where appropriate to increase the extent of calcareous grassland in Swindon Borough.

**Objective AGRO3: Monitor and enhance the populations and ranges of species associated with farmland habitats in Swindon Borough**

Target	Target Measure	Action	Action Measure	Partners	Action Deadline	Links to Other Plans	Comments
AGRT6: Increase knowledge of the ranges and population sizes of species associated with farmland habitats in Swindon Borough.	The WSBRC receive an increased number of records from Swindon Borough relating to Farmland habitats. Baseline 2009/2010. WSBRC	AGRA14: Use existing schemes to survey and monitor species and ensure that records are passed at the appropriate time to the WSBRC	Increased records reach the WSBRC.	Scheme providers and surveyors	Ongoing		HLS provide 10% towards survey costs
AGRT7: Increase the ranges and population sizes of farmland bird species.	An increase the known ranges or population sizes of farmland bird species. Countryside Survey/farmland bird information - DEFRA, every three years.	AGRA15: Approach farms within 2 ms of known tree sparrow colonies and provide advice to land managers on the management and nest boxes for tree sparrows as one of a suite of farmland birds.	10% of land holdings within 10kms of currently (2009) known populations, hold tree sparrow populations.	SWFBI, WOS	2015		

**Objective AGRO4: Raise awareness of the importance of Farmland for biodiversity**

Target	Target Measure	Action	Action Measure	Partners	Action Deadline	Links to Other Plans	Comments
AGRT8: Raise awareness of the importance of Farmland for biodiversity.	As individual actions.	AGRA16: Promote 'Open Farm Sunday' (annual LEAF event).	5 farms in Swindon Borough have an open day each year.	Farmland HAP Working Group	Annual, ongoing		
		AGRA17: Events hosted by the Swindon BAP partnership should promote/be catered for using local foods.	All events including small meetings	Swindon BAP Partnership	Ongoing		
		AGRA18: Bring forward proposals for a city/community farm enterprise within Swindon Borough.	Proposals developed and a plan of implementation underway.	Farmland HAP Working Group	2015	See Swindon Urban HAP Action: URBA23	
AGRT9: Strategic Nature Areas (SNAs) are delivered through GI strategies and mitigation plans..	Green Infrastructure strategies and mitigation plans explicitly address this issue.	AGRA19: Swindon BAP Partnership includes this issue in responses to all relevant consultations.	Relevant responses are made in relation to SNAs.	Swindon BAP Partnership	Ongoing	Swindon BAP Urban HAP.	
AGRT10: The potential for conflict between public access and nature conservation is recognised and managed.	GI strategies and mitigation plans explicitly address this issue.	AGRA20: Swindon BAP Partnership includes this issue in responses to all relevant consultations.					Action measure. deadlines and lead partner need to be identified in order to take this target forward.