Monitoring Farmer Clusters

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This talk will cover...

- Why we should monitor
- Who can do it
- What you can monitor
- Surveying on a landscape scale
- Examples of baseline surveys and monitoring



Salisbury

Martin Down Farmer Cluster

Cranborne Chase AONB

Southampton

New Forest National Park

Bournemouth

Isle of Wight

Overview of monitoring

Monitoring consists of:

- Choosing what to survey
- Obtaining existing data (LERCs, NBN)
- Choosing a robust yet practical method
- Doing a baseline survey (year one/two)
- Repeating surveys at appropriate intervals
- Entering data to a scheme/system of your choice
- Reviewing data to identify trends and evaluate progress



Why is it important that we monitor?

- Need evidence that "clusters work"
 - Research
 - Policy & funding
 - Growing the initiative
- Giving farmers the recognition they deserve
- Engaging people new discoveries capture the imagination, and successes are rewarding



A key question before you start...

What am I going to do with my survey records?

- Do I enter them and how (national recording scheme, or an online recording system/app)
- Data destination & control
- Accessibility of submitted records
- Do I analyse them and how







What to survey?

This depends on

- The priorities or interests of your group
- Conservation projects going on
- Limitations
 - Manpower (surveyors)
 - Skills available
 - Time to coordinate
 - Funds (equipment/external help)



Species





Habitats





Events & Socio-economic



 Defra UK

 @DefraGovUK

Follow

It's #BeesNeeds Week! See what @Gameandwildlife and @Buzz_dont_tweet discovered on their a farm insect walk in #Dorset gwct.org.uk/blogs/news/201 ... ds of attendance

127,000 people potentially reached!!





Record "outre: projects and events

Who could be involved?

- Facilitator
- Farmers
- Farmer's family and friends
- Farm/estate staff and residents
- Gamekeepers
- Farm/estate advisors or agents

- Local villagers
- Schools
- Village clubs e.g. WI, Rotary, tea/coffee mornings
- Local wildlife enthusiasts and volunteers
- Professional ecologists (£)
- Researchers (linked to specific projects)



Which method to choose?

National recording schemes





Partridge Count Scheme



PCOMPOSITION UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme Flower-Insect Timed Count





Angler's Riverfly Monitoring Initiative



Landscape Scale

To gauge what's going on in your cluster, you need to collect data on a large and representative spread of land



Farmer Cluster Website

- Suite of monitoring methods currently available on the website
- Points out a range of national recording schemes and some suggested adaptations for landscape scale
- This suite can be expanded over time
 - Feedback, suggestions, case studies please!



Martin Down Farmer Cluster examples





Hedgehogs

Adopted the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) footprint tracking tunnel method



Farmland 1km grid survey – 100 locations

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5 km

Village/farm yard survey – extra 60 locations

Baseline 2017/18

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Re-survey in a few years time to monitor hedgehog distribution, and identify impacts of habitat improvements and hedgehog education in villages

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5 km

Arable flora



- Important Arable Plant Area (IAPAs) scoring system
- Created a species list for each farm
- 30km of arable margins walked for baseline 'blitz'





Filling in the void

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Summing up!

- Work within your limitations
- Baseline survey hugely important!
- Systematic and representative data collection that can be repeated
- Enthuse and motivate farmers and communities with your results
- Use your data to bring about change on the ground



Thank you!



