

More information

If you are interested in finding out more about Local Wildlife Sites and the options available to you as an owner or manager of one of these fantastic sites, visit the Essex Local Wildlife Sites website, www.localwildlifesites.org.uk

What is available on the Website?

Downloadable documents including:

- Criteria document – this sets out the criteria that should be met for a site to be considered as a Local Wildlife Site.
- Site Citation documents – setting out the description of the site and the main features. Please note that no owner details will be displayed on the website or in any other document. Please also note that work is currently in progress on this part of the website, not all citations will be available – for more information contact the Local Wildlife Sites Officer.
- All the necessary information relating to Positive Conservation Management and the application for a grant (including forms and the guidance documents).
- National Indicator 197 – Reporting form for those who wish to confirm online that Positive Conservation Management has been achieved.

Contact us

For more information about everything you have read and how to get involved with the Project, contact:

Adam Rochester, Wildlife Site Officer
Essex Wildlife Trust, Abbots Hall Farm
Great Wigborough, Colchester CO5 7RZ

telephone: 01621 862 988
mobile: 07791 430 250
email: adamr@essexwt.org.uk

We would like to hear from you about your site and the associated wildlife; please get in touch.



Essex Wildlife Sites Project Leaflet

The leaflet provides background information to Essex Local Wildlife Sites and the support available to owners/managers of the sites. This is available from the Essex Local Wildlife Sites website or through Adam Rochester (please see below).



Supporters of the Essex Wildlife Sites Project

Essex Wildlife Trust, Essex County Council, Essex Biodiversity Project, Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission, FWAG, The District and Borough Councils of Tendring, Colchester, Braintree, Uttlesford, Harlow, Epping Forest, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Maldon, Rochford, Castle Point, Basildon, Southend and Thurrock.

Essex Local Wildlife Sites



ESSEX
Wildlife Trust
Working as part
of the Essex
Partnership

Issue 1 Spring 2009

A newsletter for owners and managers of Local Wildlife Sites in Essex

Supporting Landowners to protect their wildlife

Welcome

This is the first edition of the Essex Local Wildlife Sites Newsletter. This newsletter aims to give you an introduction to the Essex Local Wildlife Sites Project and the help available to you if you are fortunate enough to own or manage one of these important sites.

There are just over 1600 Local Wildlife Sites in Essex and these all play a fundamental role for the long term survival of wildlife. Local Wildlife Sites, together with statutory protected areas like Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), are fundamental as they provide a vital contribution in order to maintain the current levels of wildlife in Essex.

There are many ways to get support for your Local Wildlife Site, including financial support to carry out the necessary work to improve the site for wildlife.

I hope you enjoy this first edition of the newsletter and I look forward to meeting and working with you in the future.

What are Local Wildlife Sites?

Many people are unfamiliar with the name 'Local Wildlife Site' and this is not surprising since the name given to these important sites has changed several times and has included, 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' (SINCs) and more recently 'County Wildlife Site' (CWS). The correct term is 'Local Wildlife Site' (LoWS).

Local Wildlife Sites are recognised by professional ecologists as having nationally and regionally important habitats and species.



Local Wildlife Sites encompass the majority of habitat types found in Essex including ancient woodland, grasslands and wetlands.

Local Wildlife Sites are held in ownership of a wide range of groups and organisations, particularly private individuals, as well as Essex Wildlife Trust, Essex County Council, District Councils and Unitary Authorities, Forestry Commission and Environment Agency to name just a few.



Essex Local Wildlife Sites Project

The Essex Local Wildlife Sites Project seeks to work with owners to improve the value of the Local Wildlife Sites to ensure that the good work on these important sites continues.



What are the likely benefits from getting involved with the Project?

There are a wide range of benefits for owners of a Local Wildlife Site and many of these are listed below. For more information contact Adam Rochester, Local Wildlife Sites Officer 01621 862 988.

We can provide FREE of charge:

- Advice on grants that may be available to you and support with grant applications eg. Positive Conservation Management Grant (see overleaf), English Woodland Grant Scheme and Environmental Stewardship Scheme.
- Advice is available if needed on how to manage your site with wildlife in mind.
- Ways to get your site surveyed or re-surveyed for wildlife.
- Background information on your site including information relating to main wildlife features.
- Assistance to carry out the essential works on your site or link you with volunteers in the local community.

What is National Indicator 197?

National Indicator 197 is one of the indicators recognised by the local authorities and other organisations in the Local Area Agreement. NI 197 is an indicator which sets a target to improve Local Wildlife Sites through Positive Conservation Management by 2011.

Grant available for Positive Conservation Management – National Indicator 197

In the past year, the Essex Partnership (made up of local authorities and voluntary organisations) has agreed to accept National Indicator 197 as a target for Essex. The grant scheme makes money available to landowners to obtain a practical management guidance statement (simple management plan) so it is clear what work needs to be done to access financial help. Essex Wildlife Trust, on behalf of the Essex Partnership, is leading on this grant scheme.



How do I apply for the Positive Conservation Management Grant and what is involved?

The application for the grant is a very simple process and involves very little paperwork. Simply fill out the Appendix 3 form (a simple one A4 side) which is obtainable via the Local Wildlife Sites website (www.localwildlifesites.org.uk) or from Adam Rochester, Local Wildlife Sites Officer (01621 862 988).

Other Funding Opportunities

The main funding opportunities include English Woodland Grant Scheme, Ancient Woodland Clusters Scheme, Environmental Stewardship Scheme, Essex Biodiversity Project and Essex County Council initiatives.

For more help and support contact Adam Rochester, Local Wildlife Sites Officer 01621 862 988.