

Farm Wildlife Assessment - Checklist

Checklist of processes and actions to take before, during and after a farm visit. This is a general guide only, and it is appreciated that in individual cases the suggested actions, and order, may vary. The framework outlined in the matrix below serves as a constructive listing of actions which are differentiated into essential, desirable, and optional categories:

<i>Action</i>	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	<i>Optional</i>
Pre visit	Access and review available desktop resources covering the farm and adjoining farmland e.g. MAGIC, NBN etc (<i>see Preliminary Farm Assessment Guidance</i>)	Review of LRC data	
	Identify all statutory and non-statutory sites on or near/adjacent to the farm, i.e. SSSIs (biological and geological), RAMSAR, Special Protected Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Local Wildlife Sites etc		
	Identify all protected and priority species (at a national and local level) and priority habitats, with records on the farm	Identification of wider opportunities for habitat creation at the landscape scale and increasing habitat connectivity	Determine adequacy of baseline surveys
	Determine the farm's location and status within context of relevant policy documents including Local Development Plans, National Character Areas, and targeted initiatives such as existing agri-environment scheme or Catchment Sensitive Farming agreements	Review existing agri-env schemes for the farm	
	Identify the farm location within context of UK regulatory zoning e.g. NVZs and Btb risk areas (cattle farms only tbhub.co.uk), severely disadvantaged areas and the moorland line	Any immediate queries from desktop review checked within own network of contacts/ specialists	Check farm/ farmer profiles on social media
During a visit	A map of the farm annotated with basic information from initial pre-visit review (<i>see Preliminary Farm Assessment Guidance</i>)	A weatherproof means of on farm data gathering e.g. waterproof clipboards or digital maps	
	A conversation with the farmer to confirm: the purpose of the visit and the farmer's objectives, check information on the map, and to better understand the farmer's passions and motivations. Building an initial and trusting relationship. (<i>see Communicating with Farmers Guidance</i>)		
	Ascertain important areas of the farm to visit, ensure directions and access including any gate shutting times, and check identified sites are accurate	Walk/travel with farmer	

	Collect additional information to generate an overall physical map of farm wildlife opportunities and restrictions (<i>see Monitoring Guidance</i>)	Use Farm Wildlife’s six key elements as a checklist or framework, including assessing their condition, current management, and extent: Existing Habitats and Species , Field Boundaries , Wet Features , Flower-rich Habitats , Seed-rich Habitats , and Farmed Area	Identify any invasive non-native plant species present
	Gain understanding of factors that can have an impact on wildlife advice and management, including: farming operations and business, tenure, contract farming agreements, relationship with adjacent farmers, roles and influence of other key advisers e.g. agronomists, land agents etc		
	Demonstrate some of the potential benefits and species beneficiaries, as well as how the farm and the farmer themselves might benefit. This will include ‘fit’ with proposed or potential agri-environment scheme, or other grants and subsidies available, such as Biodiversity Net Gain		
	Ascertain how any further communication is best undertaken (i.e. email, text, phone). Check if hard or electronic copy reports are preferred and discuss the style/structure of reports and/or advisory notes		
Post visit	Report and/or advisory notes etc to include outline details of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of visit • Farm details (main enterprises, tenure etc) • Farm wildlife opportunities/restrictions, refer to annotated map(s) • Advice to promote specific habitats and species • Benefits to farm/farmer including agri-environment participation • Next steps 	Online guidance linked into reports or emails, to support the information and advice being presented, needs to be suitable for the audience	
	Ensure report advisory notes are concise and appropriately use pictorial images (e.g. to illustrate desirable habitat vegetation structures)	Targeted use of embedded short video clips	
	Follow up with telephone or personal call		
	Monitoring of implementation of any advised change to management or land uses (<i>see Monitoring Guidance</i>)		