

Appendix 8. FarmLand - East Anglia Orientation Workshop

1. Introduction sent to invitees:

Workshop at the BTO on designing the agricultural landscape in East Anglia

As you know, the BTO has been involved in research into birds in agricultural systems for around 20 years and has contributed considerably to the evidence base behind agri-environment scheme design, monitoring and evaluation. In recent years, we have increasingly been involved in work on other animals and plants in farmland, as well as birds. Specifically, one major research area has been to contribute the UK component to the FarmLand project, an international research programme investigating the effects of heterogeneity – the extent to which different land covers, including crops and semi-natural vegetation are interspersed in the agricultural landscape – on wildlife. The “wildlife” here includes groups that are interesting primarily for their own sakes, as conservation priorities, and those that are important in pollination and biological control of crop pests. The latter are examples of “ecosystem services”. We are particularly interested in subtle effects of patterns of land-use or cropping, which might benefit wildlife while not affecting productivity.

The workshop arises out of this project and will take place at the BTO offices in Thetford, from 10:00am to 3:00pm on 9th December, with lunch provided.

It is critical that we get informed advice from the important stakeholders in agriculture in East Anglia as we develop any advice we give to Defra, so that habitat creation and land management conclusions are underpinned by practical considerations around farm management, and this is why we are holding this workshop. We want your views on what is good and bad about the agricultural landscape in the region and how it is changing, and then about what other possible changes might be desirable or undesirable. We want to consider both the cropped and uncropped parts of the landscape, i.e. within cropped fields and in the habitats in between them. We will introduce our recent research and indicate how the concepts and results could contribute to policies promoting the value of farmland for biodiversity and ecosystem services, with the aim is to provide a “sense check” for the kind of advice that we might give on the basis of our field results. The workshop will be run by experts from Montpellier in France, who are part of the international team.

We hope that the workshop will be interesting and enjoyable, as well as useful, and that you will be able to come. Directions to the BTO are enclosed; we are based in a former Nunnery and the buildings themselves are interesting historically. If you are interested, there will be an opportunity for a short tour after the workshop. Otherwise, we would ask that you try to arrive after 9:30 for coffee, ahead of a 10:00 start.

2. Workshop - Protocol

Date: 2014-12-09

Venue: British Trust for Ornithology, Thetford, UK.

Organizers: Gavin Siriwardena, Daria Dadam, David Norfolk (BTO), Carole Vuillot, Clélia Sirami (CEFE-CNRS).

Participants: around 12 participants including FarmLand project farmers, other farmers and other stakeholders (Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, Country Land and Business Association).

Objective of the workshop: engage stakeholders in a “bottom-up” way, assess their visions of the past and future evolution of agricultural landscapes in East Anglia and integrate their visions to co-elaborate orientation guidelines for better managing these landscapes.

Monday 08	
14h00 18h00	<p>Preparation of the workshop:</p> <p>Clarify the role of the facilitators and synthesizers</p> <p>Prepare 3 tables of 5 persons</p> <p>Prepare slides for introduction, each question and synthesis</p>
Tuesday 09	
Before 10h	Ask people to sit at one of the 3 tables (1/2 FarmLand farmer + 1/2 other farmer + 1 other), separating people who have come together
10h 10h15	<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Gavin will give a short introduction to the workshop, thanking participants. He will announce the two parts of the workshop: the morning will consist of an open discussion on East Anglia agricultural landscapes and the afternoon will start with a presentation of the FarmLand project followed by a discussion on the relationship between farming practices, agricultural landscapes and biodiversity.</p> <p>NB: thanking Carole and Clelia for coming and asking participants to pay attention to English can be a useful background/joke if we need them to rephrase what they say during the day...</p> <p>Carole will explain the town-hall meeting method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions posed to all participants together • Discussion of the question around each table (group of five) • Ideas typed by facilitators on each table, collated by the synthesizers via Google chat. Facilitators will try to elicit input from all members of each group on each point and make sure that they understand the points raised so they are recorded accurately. • Synthesizers then display ideas/input as collated from the groups on the screen, providing transparency. Ideas are aggregated into related themes (this requires a good knowledge of the local context). • At the end of the session, collated responses are displayed and comments from all participants invited to make sure that the points have been captured accurately and to identify areas of disagreement. • Final outputs collated by Carole after the workshop and circulated to interested parties
10h15 10h30	<p>Question 1: What are the main components of the East Anglian agricultural landscape? (human and non-human)</p> <p>NB: we suggest keeping this section shorter (15min) in order to have more time for Question 3, which is likely to be more complex and more interesting for the afternoon.</p>
10h30 10h50	<p>Question 2: What evolution and changes have you seen, or do you expect, in the landscape? (time scale set as +/- 15 years, as relevant to the wide adoption of agri-</p>

	environment measures and loss of set-aside)
10h50 11h25	<p>Question 3: What aspects of the agricultural landscape and its evolution are desirable and undesirable? (aesthetic, agronomic, everyday life, others,)</p> <p>Summarized via a slide with a two-column table, “Desirable” and “Undesirable” (the same changes can be perceived as + or –)</p>
11h25 12h10	<p>Synthesis and discussion: Carole and Clelia present the synthesis of the three questions, avoiding reading a list. They can also play the role of witness, reacting to the synthesis as well as to the responses of participants</p>
1210 12h40	<p>LUNCH BREAK During lunch, we need to complete the slide presenting question 4 based on results of question 3</p>
12h40 13h00	<p>FarmLand project: Gavin introduces FarmLand research project and ideas about cropping heterogeneity and landscape structure and effects on biodiversity (they can finish their lunch at the same time!)</p>
13h00 13h45	<p>Question 4: How might it be possible to change cropping or farming practices to benefit the landscape? (Dealing with undesirable points raised before lunch; include ideas within and outside cropped areas)</p>
13h45 14h30	<p>Question 5: How might it be possible to change cropping or farming practices to benefit biodiversity (and any pollination or pest control services it provides) in the landscape? (include ideas within and outside cropped areas)</p>
14h30 15h	<p>Synthesis and discussion: Carole and Clelia present the synthesis. The challenge will be to connect responses to all 5 questions.</p> <p>Short individual evaluation: A short questionnaire about the workshop organization will be distributed to each participants (5 min)</p>
15h	Coffee, departure, optional short tour of the BTO

3. Workshop programme as given to participants

0930-1000	Arrival and coffee
1000-1015	<u>Introduction:</u> Gavin Siriwardena & Carole Vuillot
1015-1030	<u>Question 1:</u> What are the main components of the East Anglian agricultural landscape? (human and non-human)
1030-1050	<u>Question 2:</u> What evolution and changes have you seen, or do you expect, in the landscape, since 2000 and over the next 10 years or so?
1050-1125	<u>Question 3:</u> What aspects of the agricultural landscape and its evolution are desirable and undesirable?
1125-1210	<u>Synthesis and discussion:</u> Carole Vuillot and Clélia Sirami
1210-1240	LUNCH
1240-1300	<u>The FarmLand project (and more lunch!):</u> Gavin Siriwardena
1300-1345	<u>Question 4:</u> How might it be possible to change cropping or farming practices to benefit the landscape?
1345-1430	<u>Question 5:</u> How might it be possible to change cropping or farming practices to benefit biodiversity (and any pollination or pest control services it provides) in the landscape?
1430-1500	<u>Synthesis and discussion:</u> Carole Vuillot and Clélia Sirami
1500	Tea, departure, optional short tour of the BTO A short questionnaire will be distributed to each participants (5 min)

Workshop team:

Carole Vuillot and Clélia Sirami (CEFE, Montpellier)

Daria Dadam, David Norfolk, Gavin Siriwardena (BTO, Thetford)