

NENE VALLEY

Nature • Improvement • Area

connecting people and nature

Campaign for the Farmed Environment

Voluntary measures for Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area

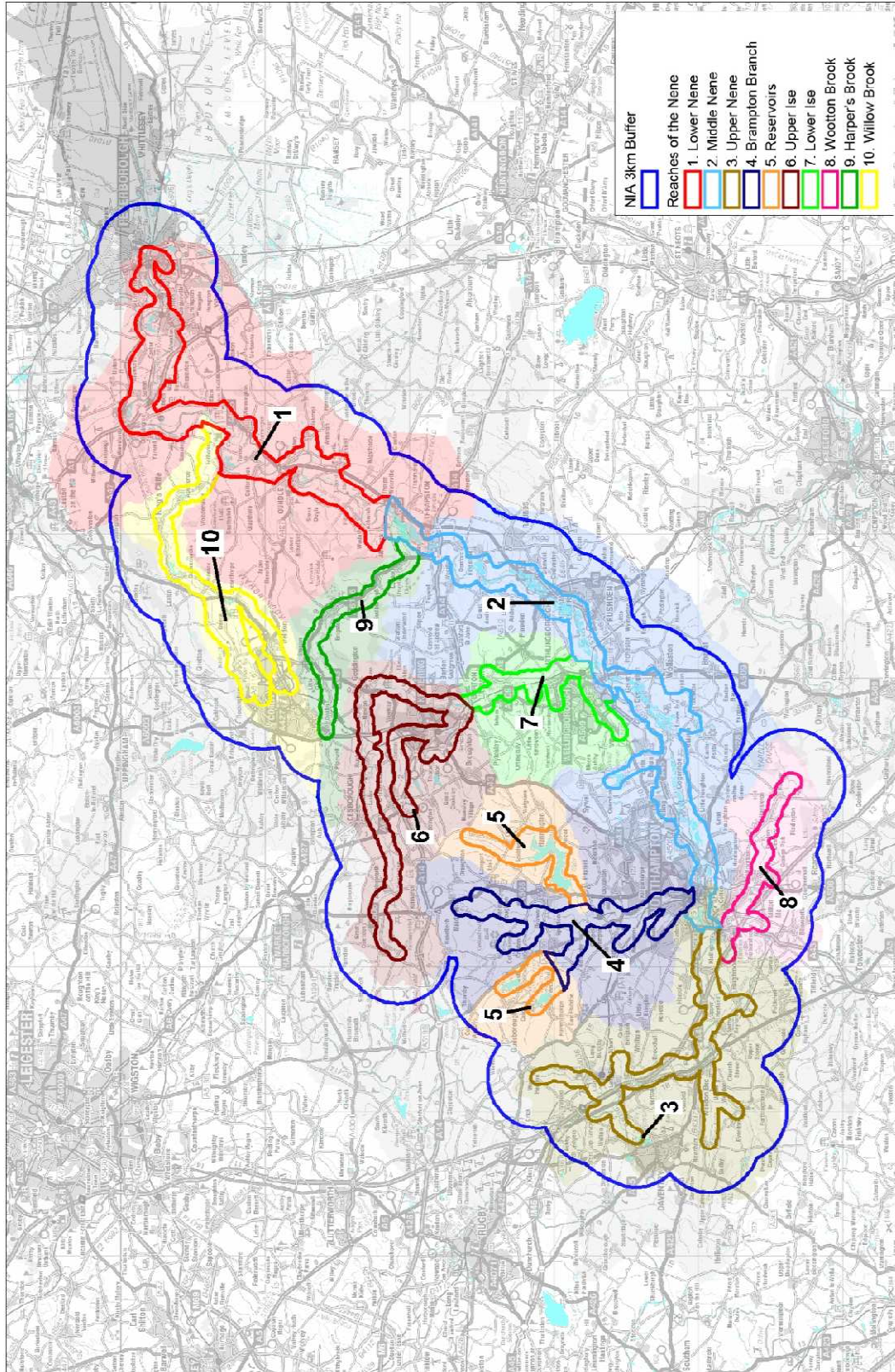
Introduction

The Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA) is one of twelve announced by DEFRA in April 2012. The aim of the NIA project is to create a step change in nature conservation with a landscape scale approach to create bigger, better and a more resilient countryside. One method of aiding the project is for landowners and farmers in the surrounding area to select similar voluntary measures from the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE). This document has been produced to assist and should therefore to be used as a guide for land agents, farmers and landowners when selecting measures.

The Nene Valley NIA employs a Land Advisor to work within a 3km buffer around the main NIA area which covers approximately 41,000ha of Northamptonshire. For free advice on land management and Catchment Sensitive Farming please contact the Land Advisor Dr Robin Field on 07921 941734.

CFE Voluntary Measures

- A range of voluntary measures are now highlighted in the new CFE arable and grassland leaflets and these have been further refined to take account of local (Northants) priorities
- Measures (Table 1) have been selected on a reach by reach (Figure 1) basis and should be used where appropriate
- Further information is available in the CFE website: www.cfeonline.otg.uk



The map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Northamptonshire County Council Licence No. 100018331. Published 31/1/2011.

Figure 1: Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area – River reaches

Farmland Birds

- Why a priority – steep decline in the country's farmland bird population
- In a National high priority area
- Grey partridge, Lapwing, Turtle dove, Skylark, Yellow wagtail, Tree sparrow, Linnet, Yellowhammer & Reed bunting are key species
- Three main needs of farmland birds: overwinter seed food, nesting habitat and food for chicks
- For more information see CFE arable and grassland leaflets

Water voles, dragonflies, newts & toads

- Why a priority – very steep decline in Water vole numbers in the last 20 years
- Water voles are now very localised. If you think they are present contact NIA Land Advisor
- Loss of ponds have caused declines in dragonflies, newts and toads
- Buffering and protecting any water on the farm is important
- For more information see CFE arable and grassland leaflets

Butterflies, bees & vulnerable grassland

- Why a priority – Massive loss of species rich grassland (over 95%)
- Few pollen and nectar sites left, so lack of connectivity
- Flower rich habitats along ditches & watercourses
- Where possible incorporate native species. Speak to Land Advisor for advice on suitable species
- Willow Brook / Harpers Brook runs through Rockingham Forest which is a strong hold for Black hairstreak. This needs dense stands of Blackthorn. This is found in woodlands but often isolated. Use hedgerow measures to link habitats and provide additional scrubby habitat
- For more information see CFE arable and grassland leaflets

Cleaner water & Healthier soil

- Why a priority – River water used to fill local reservoirs
- Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Project target area (Lower Nene and tributaries and Upper Nene and Ise)
- Issues with Metaldehyde, diffuse pollution, sediment run off, phosphates and nitrates
- Buffer all streams, watercourses, ditches that run into streams with grass margins
- Free CSF advisory visits. Contact NIA Land Advisor for details
- For more information see CFE arable and grassland leaflets

Further advice

Contact: Dr Robin Field, Nene Valley NIA Land Advisor and CSF Officer on 07921 941734 or email: rfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Table 1		Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area									
Targets	CFE voluntary measures	Lower Nene 1	Middle Nene 2	Upper Nene 3	Brampton Arm		Upper Ise 6 above SSSI	Lower Ise 7	Wootton Brook 8	Harpers Brook 9	Willow Brook 10
					4	5 Reservoirs					
Farmland birds	VM10, VM11, VM12, VM13, VM15, VM22	H	H	L	L	L	L	H	L	L	L
Water voles, dragonflies, newts & toads	Hedgerows Ditches	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Arable plants	Where this feature is found use voluntary measures outlined in the CFE arable leaflet										
Bats & dormice	Where present ensure voluntary measures suggested in the CFE arable and grassland leaflets are incorporated										
Butterflies, bees & vulnerable grassland	VM6, VM7, VM10, VM19, VM20, VM21 Hedgerows	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Brown hare	Where present ensure voluntary measures suggested in the CFE arable and grassland leaflets are incorporated										
Landscape	Where locally important landscape character present ensure appropriate measures incorporated. See NCA / JCA profiles for more information										
Historic environment	Where this feature is found use voluntary measures outlined in the CFE arable and grassland leaflets										
Cleaner water & healthier soil	VM1, VM2, VM4, VM13, VM17	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Climate change	Measures to make land more resilient to climate change should be incorporated where possible.										

H – High priority area L – Lower priority area