



A CLUSTER FARMER'S EXPERIENCE

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Allenford Farmers' Cluster Group

- Started Autumn 2013
- 6,800 hectares
- 8 Holdings
- Mixture of land types/uses
- 1 Expert administrator



Copyright Kingfisher Aerial

10 target Species

- **Grey Partridge**
- **Turtle Dove**
- **Corn Bunting**
- **Woodcock**
- **Barn Owl**
- **Stone Curlew/Lapwing**
- **Butterfly**
- **Harvest Mouse**
- **Adder**
- **Bumble Bee**

FUNDING

- **Much of the land in existing conservation schemes**
- **Unanimous desire to self-fund to maintain autonomy**
- **£1/ha per year from members**
- **£21,200 from private fund over first 3 years**

Surveys to date

- **Birds - 86 species (20 on red list)**
- **Harvest mice**
- **Glow worms**
- **Butterfly – 26 species**
- **Reptiles/amphibians**
- **Hedgehogs**
- **Bats – 12 species**
- **Arable Flora**

PROGRESS SO FAR

- Recruitment to 6,800 ha
- Mapping of cluster area
- Identification of baseline species/numbers
- Identifying existing conservation schemes/practices
- Choosing 10 target species
- Joining/adding to 'Living Record'
- Survey roll-out
- Barn owl box distribution
- Winter supplementary feeding
- Education of members
- Softly, softly approach

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BENEFIT TO US?

- **Ownership of our conservation destiny**
- **Earning farmers respect/trust with conservation agencies**
- **Educating us about our own back yards**
- **Future access to stewardship funding**
- **The warm feeling of doing something good for the environment...**

WHERE NOW?

- **Fill in land gaps**
- **Continue surveys**
- **Adopting best practice to encourage target species**
- **Co-ordination of future conservation schemes**
- **Co-operation with surrounding clusters**
- **Possible application for facilitation fund**

