

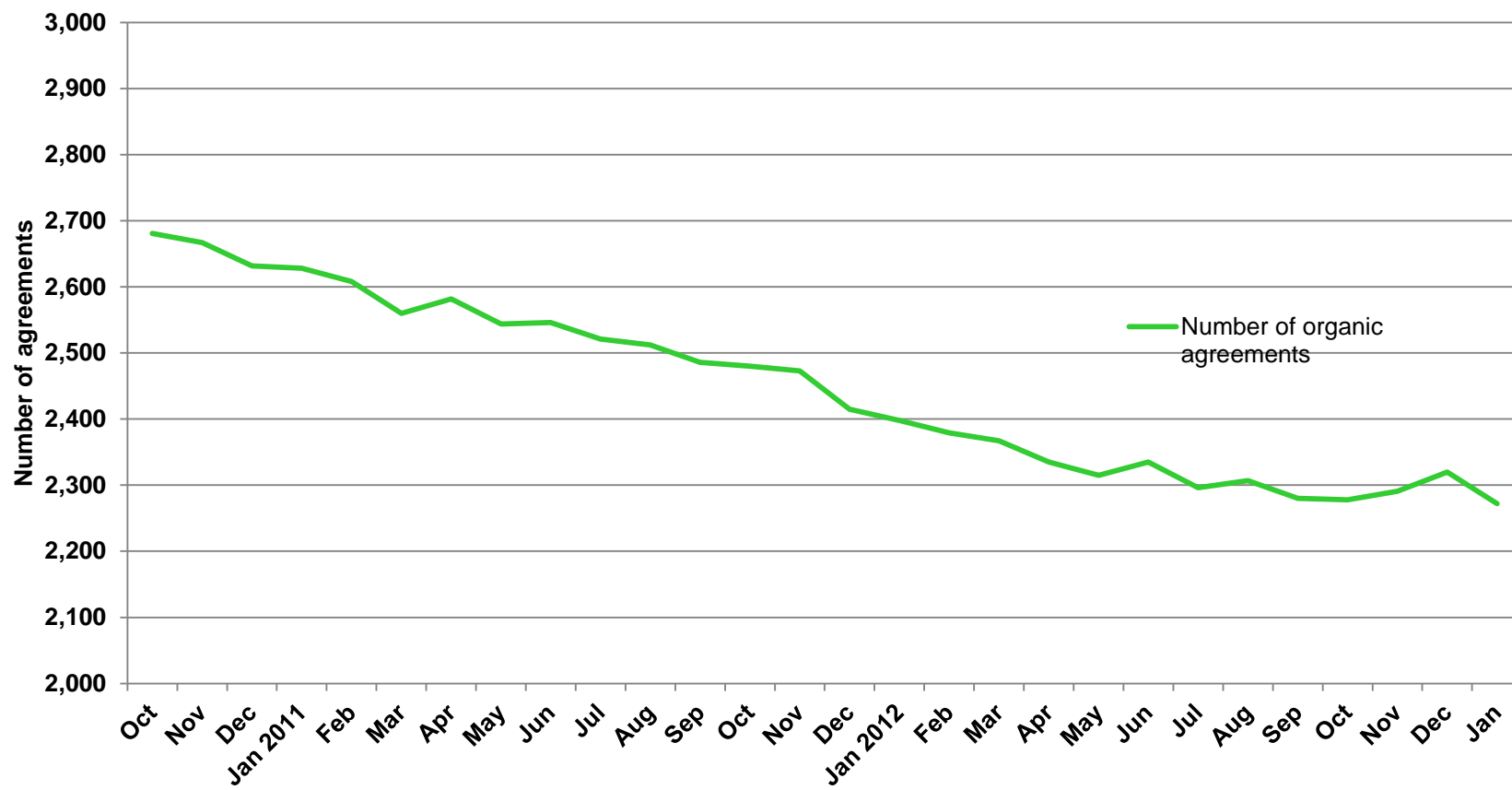


Changes to Organic Entry Level Stewardship

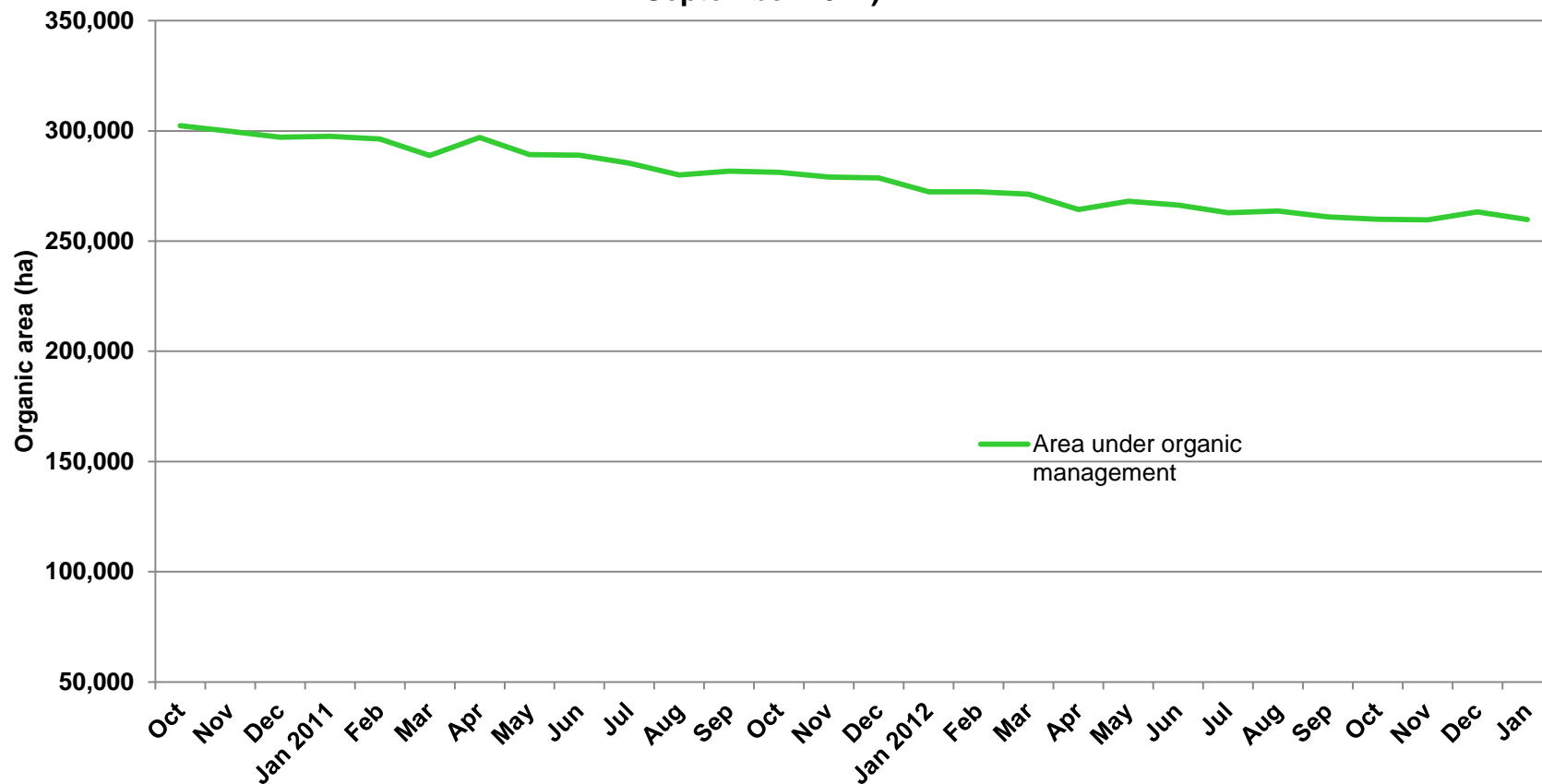
Steve Bellingham

- Sits on top of Cross Compliance
- Comprises economic and environmental payments
 - Conversion payments
 - Organic management payment
 - Payment for management of the options
- Options are organic versions of the ELS options

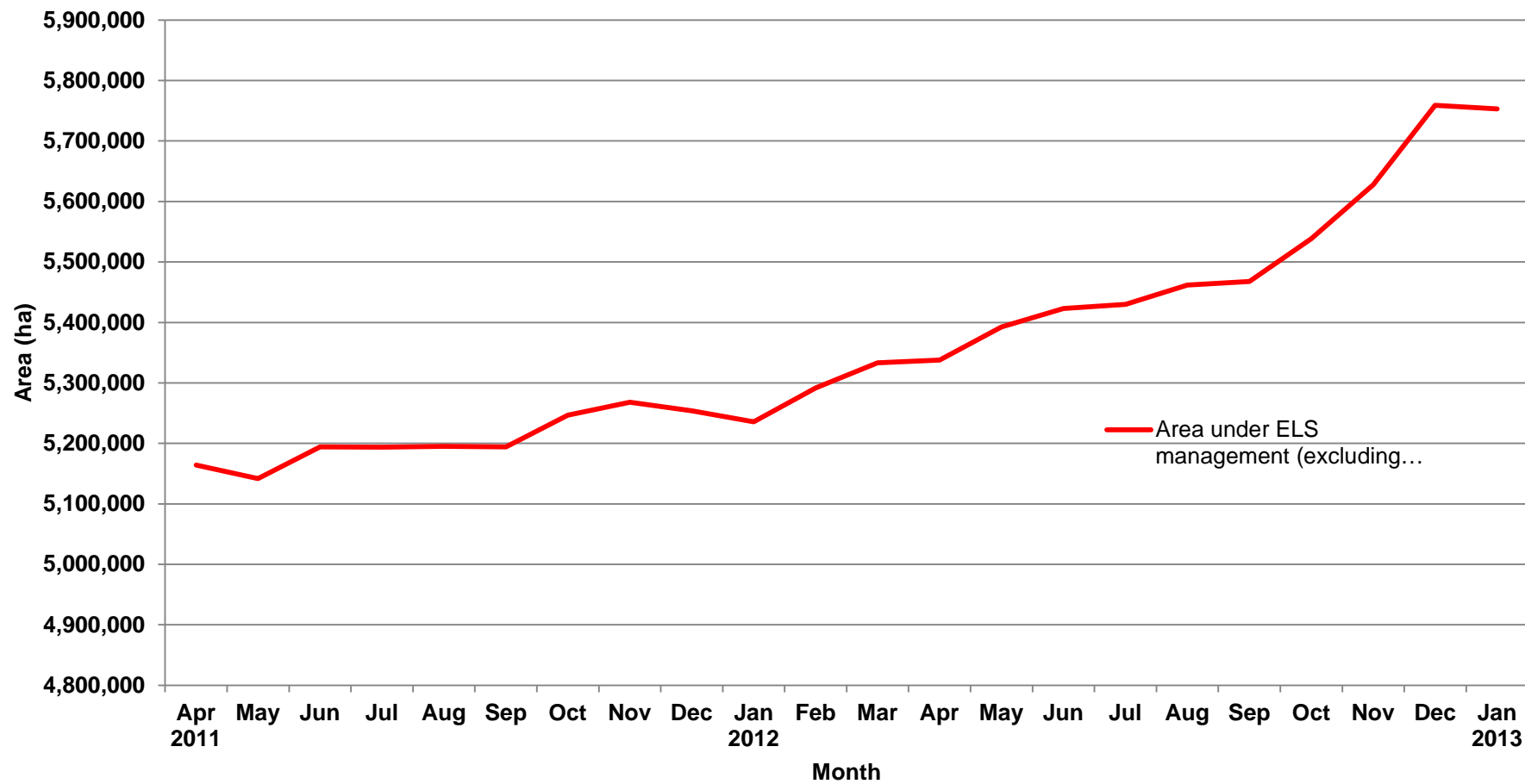
Number of live organic ES agreements (October 2010 - September 2012)



Area (ha) under organic management within live ES agreements (October 2010 - September 2012)



Area under ELS (exc organics) (ha) (April 2011- Jan 2013)



Top 10 OELS options – 7 January 2013

Top 10 organic options (by number of agreements in which they are included) at 7 January 2013

Option	No. of agreements including this option	Percentage of agreements containing this option
OB2 - Hedgerow management for landscape (on one side of a hedge)	1,349	59%
OB1 - Hedgerow management for landscape (on both sides of a hedge)	1,003	44%
OK2 - Permanent grassland with low inputs: outside SDA & ML(organic)	982	43%
OK3 - Permanent grassland with very low inputs:outside SDA&ML(organic)	894	39%
OB3 - Hedgerow management for landscape and wildlife	694	31%
OC2 - Protection of in field trees - grassland	329	14%
OB6 - Ditch management	326	14%
OC3 - Maintenance of woodland fences	264	12%
OE3 - 6m buffer strips on rotational land	233	10%
OB9 - Combined hedge and ditch management (incorporating OB2)	228	10%

Making Environmental Stewardship More Effective



- Defra-led project aimed to Improve the delivery of environmental outcomes from Environmental Stewardship (ES)
The project was set up in response to Defra Ministers' wishes to ensure ELS delivered more and better environmental outcomes.

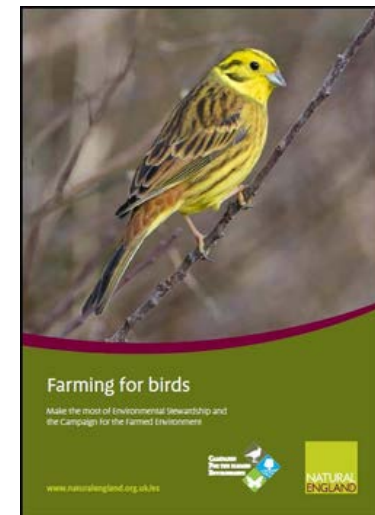
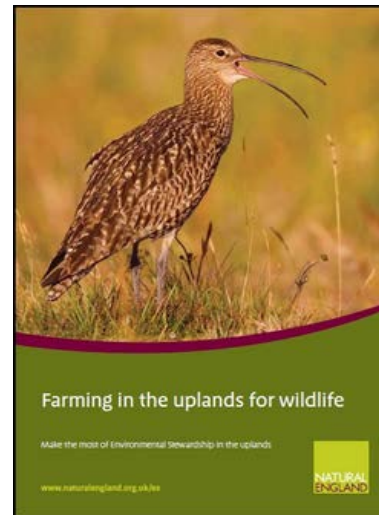
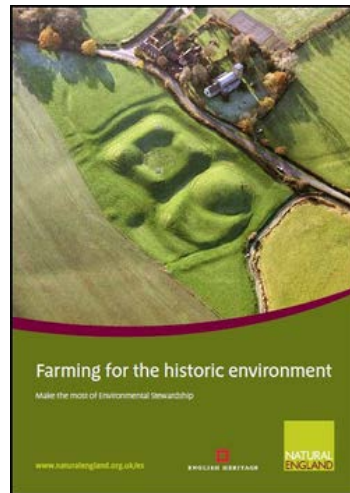
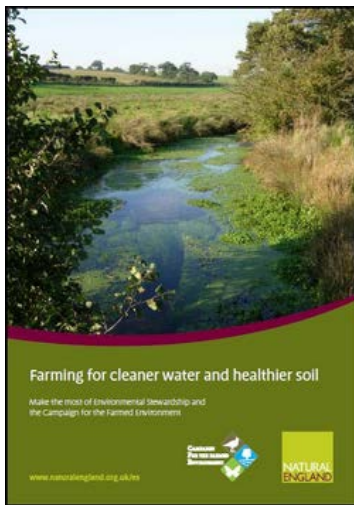
Current MESME initiatives:

- High Priority Options
- Introduction of new options
- Changes to existing option prescriptions and points
- Amendments: 'free' if moving from Low to High priority options

Summary of ELS changes



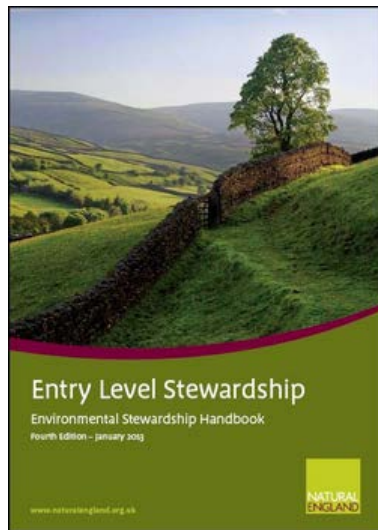
- Priority options identified in ELS Bundles leaflets



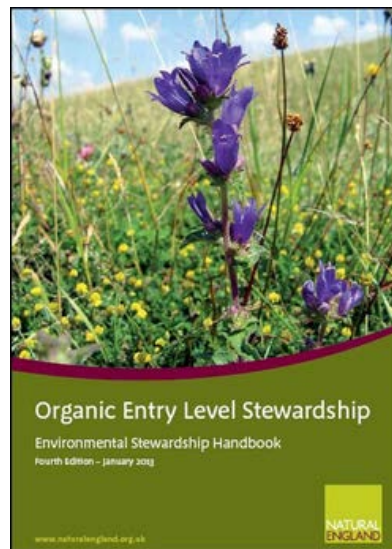
New Fourth Edition Handbooks – 1 January 2013



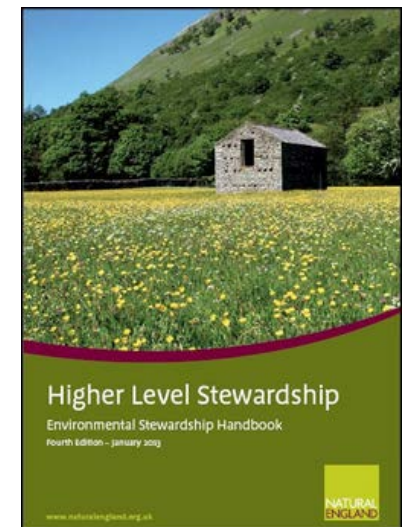
- Introduction of 5 new options
- Removal of one UELS option (replaced by ELS option)
- Changes to option prescriptions, titles and points values
- Changes can affect HLS if ELS options underpinning HLS agreements are used as £s instead of points



ELS



OELS



HLS

Key OELS changes – 5 new options



- OE12 Supplement to add wildflowers to buffer strips and field corners on cultivated land (63 pts/ha)
- OK20 Ryegrass seed-set as winter/spring food for birds (190pts/ha)
- OK21 Legume- and herb-rich swards (250pts/ha)
- OB14 Small scale hedgerow restoration (inside and outside the SDA) (10pts/m, max 40m per year)
- OF23 Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds (612pts/t)

Available to both new and existing agreements (except OE12) from 1st January 2013

Updated titles & amended prescriptions



Hedgerows

- OB1/2 New eligibility criteria >20m long, <5m wide
 - Gap allowance reduced from 20% to 10% but gapping up allowed
 - Renamed “for landscape”
- OB3 More flexible cutting – every 2yrs allowed but only in Jan/Feb
 - Renamed “for landscape and wildlife”
- OC23 Increase in number of trees from 2 to 3 per 100m

Walls

- OB11/UOB11 New eligibility criteria – complete walls only
 - Height requirement relaxed - 75% top stones
 - Annual inspection and record keeping

Buffers

- OE9 & OE10 6m buffer-strips on organic grassland/rotational land next to a watercourse
- Eligibility extended – now also next to tracks and roads to prevent channelling water into a watercourse

Arable options

OF4 Nectar flower mixture

- Area constraints removed, **now fully rotational**

EG4 Cereals for whole-crop silage followed by overwintered stubble
Area constraint removed, can now sow areas with beneficial seeds

Key ELS changes - points



Releasing points for other options

- FER 3 ⇒ 1pt/ha
- Hedgerows OB1 22 ⇒ 16pts/ha
OB2 11 ⇒ 8 pts/ha
- 2m buffer strips OE1&4 400 ⇒ 340 pts/ha
- 4 & 6m buffer strips OE2,3,5,6 500 ⇒ 425 pts/ha

NB 6m buffers next to watercourses are unaffected

Encouraging uptake:

- OJ5 In-field grass areas 350 ⇒ 454pts/ha
to prevent erosion and run off

Summary



- To deliver more and better environmental outcomes
- Changes aimed to encourage agreements to have a wider spread of options
- Affects all agreements starting from Jan 13 onwards
- 4 of the new options can be included in existing agreements