

## CASE STUDY

### FWAG Silver Lapwing

### Award finalist 2012

JOHN HOLMES, WHITE HOUSE  
FARM, FROSTENDEN, BECCLES,  
SUFFOLK



White House Farm is a 330 ha arable holding with 10 ha of grassland managed by a suckler herd. The land includes a 10 ha SSSI fen, reed beds, 2 farm reservoirs and 3 brick kiln sites.

The efficient irrigation system has improved profitability and enabled conservation practices to develop on lower yielding sections of the farm. The reservoir site became botanically rich in its own right. Increased flooding of the flood plain grassland and the removal of the dairy cattle provided an opportunity to increase wetland habitat for key species such as bittern, marsh harrier and water vole.

Fewer field vegetables are now grown compared to 1980, decreasing reliance on water and minimising the risk of run-off. Buffer strips are now in place around the farm, together with wild bird mixtures, field corners, pollen and nectar plots. Through careful choice of recently introduced agri environment options conservation management also takes place on a whole arable field basis via a low input spring cereal / overwintered stubble / fallow plot combination. Low input cereals with the increased incidence of annual arable plants have strengthened the base of the food chain across the arable sections of the farm

Whole field arable options have utilised small, low yielding fields and capitalised on the delivery of conservation opportunities for key farmland species, including farmland birds and arable flora. The family plan to carry on maximising the efficient use of water through up to date soil management technologies and water retention practices.