CODE	OPTION	WHY?	MANAGEMENT
POL1	**Where possible reduce cutting of tussocky grass margins to a maximum of once per year - timed in late summer/early autumn. Where scrub pressure requires more frequent cutting try to make the first cut before the end of March.**	Tussocks provide nesting habitat for pollinators with nests established in April/May. Also provides overwintering habitat for pollinators and beneficial insects. Research from Southampton University showed grass margins can host up to 1,000 predatory beetles and spiders per square metre. Additional benefits can include cover for farmland birds and reducing resource protection issues.	Minimal margin cutting will help to encourage tussocks but weed/scrub pressure can make this difficult. Where cutting is required margins should be cut once a year in late summer/early autumn to allow regrowth before the winter period. A second early cut could be made by the end of March if absolutely necessary.
POL2	**Manage hedgerows on a rotation to encourage flowering of species such as hawthorn and blackthorn where present**	Some species will not flower on first year growth so annual cutting results in a lack of pollen/nectar provision. Blackthorn and hawthorn in particular provide a very important pollen and nectar source early in the season.	Try to cut hedgerows on a two to three year rotation but if this is not possible consider cutting alternate sides each year.
POL3	**If hedges are not a landscape feature of the area consider opportunities to include single or small groups of trees/shrubs such as thorns, willows or gorse.**	Provides a wider range of pollen and nectar sources which will spread flowering across the season.	This option will incur an initial outlay in terms of time/cost of planting. Grants may be available for this but are less clear than for hedges.
POL4	**Gap up hedges with mixed species to extend the flowering period providing additional pollen/nectar. Species could include hawthorn, blackthorn, buckthorn, wild cherry, wild privet, guelder rose or crab apple and consider including some hedgerow trees.**	Provides wider range of pollen and nectar sources which will spread across the season	This option will incur an initial outlay in terms of time/cost of planting. Various grants schemes are available for support with hedging. Well maintained hedges could be of wider benefit for claims under current and future agricultural policy
POL5	**Look at components of wild bird seed strips and try to include flowering species which provide varied resources for pollinators as well as seed such as buckwheat, perennial chicory, phacelia or sunflower (if permitted within the prescriptions of agri-environment agreements)**	A wide variety of wild bird seed mixes are available offering a variety of options. Ensuring mixes used have an element of pollen/nectar resource within them can provide multiple benefit from one area of land. A variety of mixes could be considered across the holding to maximise the benefits.	Will need to ensure compliance with any stewardship agreements as well as suitability for herbicide regimes. A number of mixes are already available without incurring significant cost implications
POL6	**Identify areas where patches of weeds such as thistles, hogweed and deadnettles can be left to grow without causing detriment to cropped areas. For example around yard areas/field entrances.**	Provides important larval foodplants for a large number of butterflies as well as good pollen/nectar resources for pollinators.	Minimal management required other than to top once a year, before plants seed if that is a concern. Select an appropriate area where benefits are likely to be greatest such as alongside a south facing wall.
POL7	**Try to ensure some patches of hollow stemmed weeds such as bramble and hogweed are left each year to provide shelter and nesting habitat, taking a rotational approach to cutting.**	Hollow stems provide overwintering and nesting habitat but they are likely to be in almost constant use so cutting will have a detrimental impact whenever it takes place. By leaving an area uncut on rotation each year it will ensure some species are able to complete their lifecycle.	Try to ensure an area is always left. For example perhaps leave a rotational stretch of drain bank or hedgerow base uncut each time.
POL8	**Try to identify suitable areas of nettles which could be easily topped in mid-June, allowing a flush of new regrowth to come through**	This provides new regrowth favoured by species such as small tortoiseshell to lay their eggs. Timing is important to ensure topping takes place between broods.	Identify any areas of nettles, situated in sunshine, which can be easily topped in mid-June.
POL9	**Retain mature ivy on trees and other suitable areas around the farm to provide extremely valuable pollen/nectar-rich flowers in late autumn as well as dense cover for overwintering insects.**	Provides a really important late season nectar source. Research has found ivy to be a major contributor to autumn nectar supplies for bumblebees, hoverflies, honeybees and other pollinators	Minimal management required other than to check against damage to brickwork and to avoid too much ivy in the crowns of trees
POL10	**Consider opportunities to provide solitary bee holes at locations across the farm either by putting up bee hotels, creating your own from old pallets, leaving piles of undisturbed sand or drilling holes in existing fence posts.**	Provides habitat for aerial nesting species which may otherwise be lacking around the holding.	A range of methods could be considered such as putting up bee hotels (like bird boxes), put in extra posts with a range of holes drilled or even make your own from old pallets. It is important to position these in warm, sunny patches which are likely to be colonised quite quickly.
POL11	**Look to reduce cutting frequency of farm trackways allowing low growing plants such as trefoils and clovers to flower while maintaining a regular regime**	Provides additional pollen and nectar sources if species are allowed to flower	Consideration of timing cuts around other farm activities but otherwise minimal management.
POL12	**Recognise the importance of providing patches of bare ground, in south facing areas such as awkward field corners or field entrances**	Provides habitat for ground nesting bees. These areas are likely to be in long-term use and so providing bare ground on rotation is ideal where possible.	Identify suitable areas where soil erosion is not likely to be an issue. Where it is not feasible to maintain bare ground over a long period try to ensure there is a cycle of bare ground availability - as vegetation recolonises one area another area is available elsewhere.

POL13	**Consider whether species such as white clover can be added into grass leys and allowed to at least partially flower before cutting. Where fields are cut, consider leaving a small proportion (5-10%) uncut to provide nectar sources.**	White clover is one of four main nectar-providing species according to research (Baude et al., 2016). May have additional benefits of nitrogen fixing and soil structure improvements.	Timing of cuts/grazing needs to allow plants to flower. May require forward planning of leys and some additional seed cost. Also checks to ensure compatability with NVZ requirements.
POL14	**Where woodland areas are present, try to leave some standing/fallen deadwood to decay in situ**	Provides important habitat for a range of invertebrates such as beneficial beetles and overwintering bumblebees.	If managing woodland on the farm, leave some standing/fallen deadwood to decay in situ on site. Otherwise, unwanted logs could be used to create habitat piles in shady/damp areas of the farm
POL15	**Consider allowing slightly wider margins at the base of some south-facing hedgerows to provide nesting sites and also allow hedge base flora such as deadnettles, hedge woundwort, hogweed and dandelions to thrive.**	Provides additional nectar source for pollinators associated with herbaceous plants which characteristically occur at the bases of hedges. South-facing hedges also provide warm nesting sites for ground and surface nesting bumblebees and solitary bees.	Care will be required to select margins where weed pressure is reduced.
POL16	**Undertake ditch management on rotation, clearing/cutting from one side each year leaving the other bank undisturbed as a refuge and only disturbing bottom sediments infrequently**	Well managed ditches provide wetland flowers and larval habitat for pollinators and this approach ensures continual bank refuge for species disturbed by cutting	Dependent on whether the watercourse is farm maintained but in theory should reduce management time required by only cutting from one side each year
POL17	**Consider reducing/rotating cutting regimes on farm verges/amenity grass during warmer months, allowing plants such as hawkbits, yarrow, trefoils and clovers chance to flower**	Species can be given an opportunity to flower providing additional pollen and nectar sources, without getting out of hand.	Suitable for grassed areas which contain low growing plants such as clovers and trefoils. Requires reducing the frequency of current management perhaps in selected areas or one mower width of verge for example. May require communication if it has been policy to keep amenity grass short but cycle can still enable species to flower while maintaining a degree of tidiness.
POL18	**Maintain dry stone wall habitat, in good or poor repair, and consider buffering these with grass strips or margins**	Provides variety of habitat for numerous insect species and their eggs - many of which are beneficial predators such as ladybirds and lacewings	Can be resource intensive to maintain walls in good condition but dilapidated walls can also provide beneficial habitat, particularly if buffered
POL19	**Provide nectar-rich habitat on reservoir banks - this could be a seed mix if considered at planning stage**	Provides additional on-farm pollen and nectar sources	Preferences for habitat on reservoir banks varies considerably. For grassed banks consider a flower-rich seed mix which will need initial establishment and then a cutting regime. Other options could include a range of pollen and nectar rich shrubs.
POL20	**Consider whether a low-maintenance grass mix with a percentage of low growing species such as clovers or trefoils could be suitable for areas which are currently providing little benefit - in particular around buildings and yards.**	Provides additional pollen and nectar resources. Red clover will benefit long-tongued bumblebees in particular	Will incur costs of initial establishment/seed etc but in the long term this will provide a more beneficial and visually appealling area of habitat which requires minimal management other than topping
POL21	**Turn unproductive/awkward field corners into flower-rich habitat by drilling wild bird seed or pollen/nectar plots.**	Provides wider range of pollen and nectar sources and can provide multiple benefits for farmland birds too.	Will incur costs of initial seeds and resource time to prepare seedbed as well as some ongoing management but can result in ease of field operations. Wild bird seed likely to be more successful in areas of high weed pressure.
POL22	**Consider alternatives to single species maize covers to provide additional pollen/nectar sources. Could include replacing one drill width with alternative mix or using rotational system which includes perennial covers.**	Provides a pollen/nectar-rich resource for a range of pollinators later in the season when other flowering species are starting to decline/be topped. Has added benefits as a seed source for farmland birds as well. Doesn't require additional land to be taken out of production but does provide opportunity for significant habitat enhancement.	Various alternatives to straight maize are currently being explored in the county. Consider changing to a sunflower-maize mix or similar, or if weed pressure is high then instead replace one drill width of maize with a more varied cover mix on the non-field side of the strip. Could include two-year mixes with kale, phacelia etc so saves having to redrill every year.
POL23	**Recognise the value of north facing hedgerow bases in providing hibernation sites and consider allowing slightly wider undisturbed margins along some of these**	North facing hedgerows are important for hibernating bumblebees as they warm up later and ensure hibernating insects don't emerge during mild spells before nectar and pollen sources are available.	Ordinary hedge/base management should not impact on hibernating bumblebees but allowing some wider margins will help ensure minimal disturbance
POL24	**If using cover crops try to use a mix which includes flowering species that will provide pollen/nectar into late autumn**	Many farms suffer from a lack of pollen/nectar source in late autumn. A wide variety of cover crop mixes are available and many will flower into early November	A wide range of cover crop mixes are now available. Expert advice may be needed to tailor the mix to your requirements.