

## Farming Without Environmental Subsidy

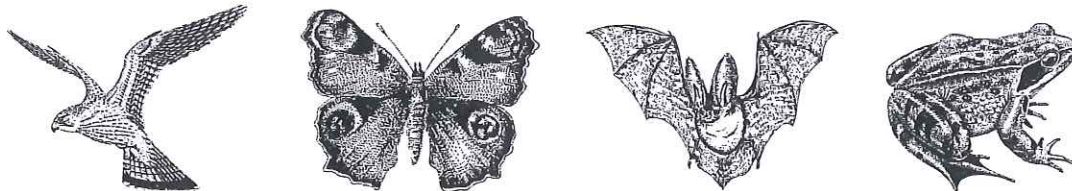
Wednesday 21st March 2012, 12.30pm - 3.30pm.

(Meet at West Gilston Mains farm steading at 12.30pm for a light lunch)  
(Grid Ref- NO/432072, GPS code – KY8 6PH), 6km north east of Leven, Fife.

Dear SAC Subscriber,

By kind invitation of Edward Baxter, SAC in association with the RSPB, LEAF & Soil Essentials are holding a conservation event at Gilston Mains Estate, Leven. Please come along and join in the debate. The topic for discussion will be:

### Would you create habitat without direct environmental payments?



Future cross compliance payments may require farmers to create 'ecological focus areas of up to 7% of farmland'. How would you utilise this on your farm? Edward will show us how he farms and how he is benefitting the farm environment and business, by creating habitat but receiving no direct environmental payments. Karen Cunningham from the RSPB will explain how this work is benefitting birds and many other forms of wildlife.

**12.30pm-** Meet at West Gilston Mains farm steading for a **light lunch provided by SAC.**

**1.30-3.30pm** – Take a trailer ride/walk around the Estate, stopping to discuss where Edward (6<sup>th</sup> generation farmer) has created wildlife habitats which have multiple benefits. These range from creating habitat networks for birds and insects, to buffering watercourses for improved water quality and from benefitting sporting interests to enhancing the wider landscape. **Integrated Farm Management (IFM)** and Precision Farming underpin the business. GPS is used to cut liming costs, reduce compaction and negate runoff on tramlines. Knowledgeable and enthusiastic farm staff help make it work. The business produces good quality food and healthy wildlife populations, which are environmentally sustainable. Gilston Estate is part of the 2,000 acre Sandstone Farming business which is predominantly arable based, growing winter wheat for the local distilling market (Grain whisky) and spring barley for Malt whisky. Oats are used by Quakers mill in Cupar.

For catering purposes, please confirm your attendance by telephoning Sandra Sey on 01334 654055 or by e-mailing [Sandra.Sey@sac.co.uk](mailto:Sandra.Sey@sac.co.uk)

(This event part funded by Scottish Government)

Kind regards, **Derek Robeson**, Conservation Consultant

**SAC Consulting**  
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