

1 **Pre-print version**

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3 **Delivery of floral resources and pollination services on farmland under three different wildlife-**
4 **friendly schemes**

5 Chloe J. Hardman^a, Ken Norris^b, Tim D. Nevard^c, Brin Hughes^d, Simon G. Potts^a

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7 ^aCentre for Agri Environmental Research, School of Agriculture, Policy and Development, University
8 of Reading, Reading, RG6 6AR, UK

9 ^bInstitute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London, Regents Park, London, NW1 4RY, UK

10 ^cResearch Institute for the Environment and Livelihoods, Charles Darwin University, Darwin, NT0909,
11 Australia

12 ^dConservation Grade, 2 Gransden Park, Abbotsley, Cambridgeshire PE19 6TY, UK

13 Corresponding author: Chloe J. Hardman chloehardman@gmail.com

14 **Abstract**

15 Management that enhances floral resources can be an effective way to support pollinators and
16 pollination services. Some wildlife-friendly farming schemes aim to enhance the density and
17 diversity of floral resources in non-crop habitats on farms, whilst managing crop fields intensively.
18 Others, such as organic farming, aim to support ecological processes within both crop and non-crop
19 habitats. How effective these different approaches are for supporting pollination services at the
20 farm scale is unknown. We compared organic farming with two non-organic wildlife-friendly
21 farming schemes: one prescriptive (Conservation Grade, CG) and one flexible (Entry Level
22 Stewardship, ELS), and sampled a representative selection of crop and non-crop habitats. We
23 investigated the spatial distribution and overall level of: i) flower density and diversity, ii) pollinator
24 density and diversity and iii) pollination services provided to Californian poppy (*Eschscholzia*
25 *californica*) potted phytometer plants. Organic crop habitats supported a higher density of flowers,
26 insect-wildflower visits, and fruit set of phytometers than CG or ELS crop habitats. Non-crop
27 habitats supported a higher density of flowers and insect-flower visits than crop habitats on CG and
28 ELS farms. Pollination services were higher on organic farms overall compared to CG or ELS.
29 Pollinator diversity and density did not differ between schemes, at the point or farm level. CG farms
30 received the highest total number of insect-wildflower visits. The findings support organic farming
31 practices that increase floral resources in crop habitats, such as sowing clover or reduced herbicide
32 usage, as mechanisms to enhance pollination services. However trade-offs with other ecosystem
33 services are likely and these are discussed. The findings support the CG scheme as a way of
34 supporting pollinators within farms where high wheat yields are required.

35

36 **Keywords:** Agri-environment scheme; bees; ecosystem services; flowers; organic farming; pollinator;
37 phytometer.

38 1. Introduction

39 Declines in the abundance, diversity or ranges of insect pollinators have been documented in Britain
40 (Ollerton *et al.*, 2014), China (Xie *et al.*, 2008), Europe (Nieto *et al.*, 2014), and North America
41 (Cameron *et al.*, 2011). Key threats affecting pollinators include habitat loss, agrochemical use,
42 climate change, disease, invasive species and their interactions (Potts *et al.* 2010, Vanbergen *et al.*,
43 2013, Goulson *et al.* 2015, Kerr *et al.*, 2015). In addition to species conservation concerns, these
44 declines put pollination services at risk, which are important for 78% of wild plants (Ollerton *et al.*,
45 2011) and 75% of crops (Klein *et al.*, 2007). Demand for crop pollination in Europe has increased
46 faster than honeybee stocks, increasing the dependency on wild pollinators for crop production
47 (Breeze *et al.*, 2014). In Sweden, red clover seed yield has declined and become more variable, most
48 likely due to the homogenisation of the bumblebee visitor community (Bommarco *et al.* 2012).
49 Parallel declines in insect-pollinated plants, bees and hoverflies have been documented in the UK
50 and the Netherlands, suggesting that insect-pollination services to wildflowers have declined
51 (Biesmeijer *et al.*, 2006). However these declines have slowed since 1990, which may be due to
52 conservation efforts (Carvalho *et al.*, 2013).

53

54 To mitigate declines in pollinators and associated pollination services, the limiting resources or risk
55 factors affecting pollinator populations need to be addressed. Policy responses that benefit
56 pollinators have so far focused on reversing habitat loss, particularly enhancing floral resources.
57 Floral resources are considered to be a major limiting factor for bee populations (Roulston and
58 Goodell, 2011) and have declined over the 20th century in the UK (Carvell *et al.* 2006). Areas
59 managed to enhance floral resources tend to support a higher density and/or diversity of pollinating
60 insects (Carvell *et al.*, 2007, Haaland *et al.*, 2011) and have been associated with higher densities of
61 bumblebee nests (Wood *et al.*, 2015a). How effective floral resource enhancement is for pollinators
62 depends not only on the density and diversity of flowers, but also on the ecological contrast that the
63 management creates. Ecological contrast describes how far a resource is improved compared to a
64 control and compared to the surrounding landscape (Scheper *et al.* 2013).

65

66 It is possible that floral resource enhancement could improve pollination services. Floral resources
67 can influence pollination services through attracting more pollinators to the target plants (Ebeling *et al.*
68 *et al.*, 2008). This is an example of facilitation: when the surrounding floral display attracts pollinators
69 and increases visitation to the target plant. Multi-species plant assemblages have been found to
70 enhance visitation and pollination up to a threshold, above which the surrounding flowers compete
71 with the target species for pollinator visits (Ghazoul, 2006). Local weed diversity (Carvalho *et al.*,
72 2011), proximity of semi-natural habitat (Garibaldi *et al.*, 2011, Martins *et al.*, 2015), creation of
73 sown flower strips (Blaauw and Isaacs, 2014) and traditional hay meadow management (Albrecht *et al.*
74 *et al.*, 2007) have all been found to enhance pollination services in the local vicinity.

75

76 The main tools in Europe for enhancing floral resources in agriculturally dominated landscapes are
77 wildlife-friendly farming schemes, which include both EU-funded governmental agri-environment
78 schemes and market-funded certification schemes. These schemes vary widely in their objectives
79 and management requirements. Most agri-environment schemes focus on managing land out of
80 production rather than focusing on within-crop practices. For example, the English governmental
81 scheme, Environmental Stewardship (ES), provides a number of options for enhancing floral

82 resources in non-crop habitats. ES had two tiers of whole-farm schemes: Entry Level Stewardship
83 (ELS), a flexible basic scheme and Higher Level Stewardship (HLS), a competitive scheme targeting
84 regions containing high priority natural features. Farmers chose from a menu of management
85 options which each had a payment rate, which in ELS was calculated using a points system. These
86 schemes can be applied to both conventional and organic agricultural systems. In 2013, ELS covered
87 64.6% of England's agricultural land area, organic ELS covered 3.4% and HLS covered 18.4% (Natural
88 England, 2013). In ELS, the option considered most beneficial for pollinators was sown blocks of
89 legume based nectar flower mixture (Carvell *et al.*, 2007, Breeze *et al.*, 2014). HLS had a similar
90 nectar flower mixture, plus options for floristically enhanced grass buffer strips and maintenance,
91 restoration and creation of species-rich meadows. The adoption of floral resource enhancement
92 options has been higher in HLS (73,126 ha) than in ELS (2,883 ha, Natural England, 2011), likely due
93 to the wide choice of management options available to ELS participants. This high degree of farmer
94 choice reduced the potential of ELS to provide the greatest benefit to pollinators (Breeze *et al.*,
95 2014).

96

97 Creating minimum management requirements that benefit pollinators is one way of encouraging
98 farmers to implement options that provide the greatest benefits to wildlife. This is the approach
99 taken by Conservation Grade (CG), a biodiversity-focused farming protocol, which is funded through
100 sales of 'Fair to Nature' branded food products (<http://www.conservationgrade.org>). Farmers are
101 required to provide wildlife habitat on at least 10% of the farmed area, of which 4% must be pollen
102 and nectar rich habitat. Given this protocol, we expect non-crop habitats on CG farms to contain
103 more floral resources, higher local pollinator density and diversity and higher pollination services
104 than non-crop habitats on ELS farms.

105

106 Another strategy to make agriculture more wildlife friendly is through organic farming practices.
107 These aim to promote ecological processes that aid production; therefore organic farming applies
108 agroecological management to cropped areas more often than non-organic farming. This includes
109 the use of legumes to build soil fertility and restrictions on pesticide inputs to encourage natural
110 enemies. The spatial difference, within the farm, in the allocation of agri-environmental
111 management between organic and non-organic farms in England is demonstrated by the national
112 patterns of ELS option uptake. Organic farms were eight times more likely to undersow spring
113 cereals with a 10% legume mix, and non-organic farms were three times more likely to take a field
114 corner out of management (Natural England, 2011). Furthermore, organic management of crops is
115 associated with a higher diversity and abundance of plants (Fuller *et al.*, 2005). Therefore, we
116 expect to find a higher level of floral resource, a higher density and diversity of bees (as found by
117 Holzschuh *et al.* 2007) and a higher level of pollination service in organic crops compared to non-
118 organic crops.

119

120 In this study we compared three contrasting wildlife-friendly farming schemes in England: organic
121 farming, Conservation Grade (CG), and Entry Level Stewardship (ELS). ELS was the baseline scheme
122 in which all study farms participated. From here on, farms in ELS only are referred to as ELS, farms in
123 ELS+CG are referred to as CG and farms in organic ELS are referred to as organic. In our study, three-
124 quarters of the CG and organic farms were also in HLS and the implications of this are discussed. By
125 studying farms managed under these schemes, we were able to compare organic and non-organic
126 approaches and prescriptive versus more flexible approaches towards scheme design. This is the

127 first comparison of how whole-farm agri-environment schemes compare in terms of floral resources,
128 pollinator density and diversity and pollination services, using a sampling approach that takes into
129 account the habitat composition of the farm. We aimed to answer two key research questions: 1)
130 How did floral resources, pollinators and pollination services to phytoemitters vary between crop and
131 non-crop habitats on farms in these three schemes and; 2) How did farm level floral resources,
132 pollinators and pollination services vary between the schemes?

133

134 **2. Methods**

135 *2.1. Study sites*

136 This study was carried out in July and August 2013 in southern England. Triplets of farms (one in
137 each scheme) were selected that matched as closely as possible in terms of landscape character, as
138 defined by Natural England's National Character Areas, which are designated based on geological,
139 historical, landscape, economic and cultural character (Natural England, 2011), hereafter termed
140 regions. Matching was also based on soil type (NSRI 2011) and production type (the most common
141 commodities were cereals and beef, full list in Appendix A: Table A.1). Four suitable triplets were
142 found (Figure 1a). Farming intensity parameters collected during farmer interviews (nitrogen
143 application, number of insecticide products used and stocking density of livestock, Appendix A, Table
144 A.2) showed no differences between conventional CG and ELS farms. Farm size and number of crops
145 per farm did not differ between schemes (Appendix A). However farmer reported wheat yields and
146 field sizes measured from maps did differ significantly between schemes, with organic wheat yields
147 being significantly lower and field sizes significantly smaller than CG and ELS (appendix A). A high
148 number of our study farms were in HLS (three-quarters of the CG and organic farms). Over 99% of
149 the HLS options by area were for management of non-crop habitats. This means that when
150 interpreting differences between non-crop habitats on organic vs. ELS, and CG vs. ELS farms, we
151 should be aware that the HLS scheme may exaggerate these differences.

152

153 *2.2 Habitat maps*

154 Farm habitat maps were created in Arc GIS v.10 using cropping plans and Environmental
155 Stewardship (ES) maps (Figure 1b). ES habitats include those in ELS and HLS, which cover a range of
156 management options for arable and grassland, boundaries, historic and landscape features,
157 protection of soil and water resources and trees and woodland. Habitat maps were ground-truthed
158 using a handheld GPS enabled PC with Arc Pad software (accuracy ± 4 m). Hedgerows and tree lines
159 were mapped using Google maps aerial images (Google Maps, 2013). There were no significant
160 differences between schemes in habitat composition of the farms when habitats were grouped into
161 broad categories of ES field margin, ES grassland, improved grassland, mass flowering crop, non-
162 mass flowering crop and other (Appendix A: Table A.3, A.4).

163

164 *2.3. Landscape variables*

165 The landscape scale effects of area of mass flowering crop and semi-natural habitat in a 1km radius
166 have been shown to affect bees and pollination services (Carvell *et al.* 2011, Holzschuh *et al.* 2011).
167 Therefore, these variables were measured through the ground truthing of the Land Cover Map 2007

168 (Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, 2011). There was no significant difference between schemes in the
169 proportion of semi-natural habitat (SNH) or mass flowering crop (MFC) in the 1 km buffers around
170 the farms (SNH: Friedman $\chi^2=1.5$, $p=0.47$), MFC: Friedman $\chi^2=2.5$, $p=0.28$). However, the
171 proportion of semi-natural habitat and mass flowering crop in a 1km radius around each sampling
172 point was highly variable, so was included in pollinator models, to account for the potentially
173 confounding influence of neighbouring off-farm habitat on the pollinator density observed in crop
174 and non-crop habitats on-farm. Two of the landscapes were simple (<20% semi-natural habitat) and
175 two were complex (>20% semi-natural habitat, Appendix, Table A.5).

176

177 2.4. Floral resource surveys

178 One floral resource sampling point was surveyed in every habitat type per farm. In addition, five
179 sampling points per farm were randomly allocated to hedgerows, to representatively sample this
180 highly variable linear habitat that is a common field boundary in England. The total number of
181 sampling points at which floral resources were recorded in each scheme was: ELS: 66, CG: 72, Org:
182 61. Each floral resource sampling point consisted of 1 m² quadrats and transects. Only plants
183 considered rewarding to insects (Appendix B) were recorded. For hedgerows, a column of basal area
184 1 m² and hedge height was surveyed and additional species occurring on the 25 m long x 1 m wide x
185 hedge height transect were recorded. For all other habitats, the number of floral units was recorded
186 in each of three 1 m² quadrats. A central quadrat was placed at the randomly allocated point, then
187 another quadrat was placed 50 m north and another 50 m east, with the whole transect fitting
188 within the allocated habitat. Additional insect-rewarding plant species were recorded along the two
189 50 m x 1m transects between quadrats.

190

191 To estimate floral resource availability, we measured the density of open flowers. For composite
192 floral units (defined in Carvell *et al.* 2007), this involved dissecting three typical floral units to count
193 the number of open flowers. The mean number of open flowers per floral unit was multiplied by the
194 number of floral units to estimate open flower abundance per m² (flower density). The average
195 flower density per species across the three quadrats was taken and the density per m² of additional
196 species recorded on transects was added. For points with open flowers, the Shannon index was
197 used to calculate flower diversity. Only sampling points in non-crop habitats had sufficient open
198 flower species for diversity analysis. A diversity index was used because the relative density of
199 species surrounding the focal plant is likely to influence whether facilitation of pollination occurs
200 (Ghazoul, 2006). The main assumptions in these floral resource estimations are: i) that the
201 distribution of flowers in each habitat was homogeneous, and therefore the sampling plots are
202 representative of the whole habitat area, ii) that the number of open flowers in three floral units
203 was representative of the wider population.

204

205 2.5. Pollinator surveys

206 For pollinator surveys, a proportional stratified sampling design was used to represent the
207 composition of habitats on the farm. The area of each habitat on each farm was calculated in Arc
208 GIS. Then a weighting system was used to give areas of land in Environmental Stewardship (ES) a
209 greater representation in the proportional stratified sample. If stratified solely by area, small areas
210 of high value for biodiversity may have been missed. The habitats not in ES were given a weighting

211 of 1, whereas the ES habitats were weighted using the following equation: ES points or payment per
 212 ha/ (85 x 0.9). This equation was used because the lowest number of points that any of the ES
 213 options on these farms earned per ha was 85. Therefore the lowest scoring ES option had a
 214 weighting of 1.05 and the weighting for other options increased proportionally up to the highest
 215 scoring option which earned 485 points and received a weighting of 6.34. The proportion that each
 216 habitat's weighted area made of the summed weighted habitat areas for each farm was used to
 217 assign the twelve sampling points to habitats. These points were then randomly plotted within
 218 habitats using the 'genrandompnts' tool (Beyer 2012, (Figure 1b).

219

220 We focused on the density and species richness of bees and hoverflies, which are the main
 221 functional groups of pollinators in Europe (Albrecht *et al.*, 2012). For our phytometer species, bees
 222 are considered to be the most important pollinator guild (Cook, 1962), but hoverfly visits have also
 223 been observed (Wickens, J., personal communication). Pollinator sampling points consisted of three
 224 pan trap sampling points 50 m apart and a 100 m observation transect between them, arranged as
 225 for floral resource surveys.

226

227 Observation transects were used to assess bee and hoverfly density and wildflower visitation over a
 228 constant sampling area. This method is recommended by Popic *et al.* (2013) for studying bee-flower
 229 interactions. Transects 100 m long were walked at a constant speed over a period of 10 minutes,
 230 and wild bees and honeybees (*Apis mellifera* L.) were observed within 2 m either side and in front of
 231 the observer and recorded to the most accurate taxonomic level as possible. Specimens not easily
 232 identified in the field were collected with a hand net for later identification under the microscope
 233 using keys. Species level identification was achieved for 88% of bee observations on transects.
 234 *Bombus terrestris* (L.) and *B. lucorum* (L.) (sensu lato) workers were recorded as *B. terrestris/lucorum*
 235 because they cannot be reliably distinguished in the field. Wind speed was recorded using an
 236 anemometer, cloud cover using visual scale of oktas and maximum temperature using a
 237 thermometer. As far as possible, the UK Butterfly Monitoring guidelines for weather conditions for
 238 transects were used (Pollard and Yates, 1993). The frequency and species identity of bee-flower
 239 visits on transects was recorded.

240

241 At each pan trap sampling point, triplicate blue-white-yellow pan traps were set containing dilute
 242 soap solution. This method was used to assess bee species richness since this is considered less
 243 subjective than net sampling for small solitary bees (Westphal *et al.*, 2008). Contents of pan traps
 244 were collected after 24 hours. All three farms in a landscape were sampled as close together in time
 245 as possible, normally over a period of four days for logistical reasons. Bees were frozen and then
 246 identified to species using the keys of Else (In press) for solitary bees and Prÿs-Jones & Corbet (2011)
 247 for bumblebees. Hoverfly species richness was not assessed due to time constraints.

248

249 2.6. Pollination service surveys

250 Ten of the twelve pollinator sampling points also had phytometers present. Phytometers are potted
 251 plants that are self-incompatible and insect pollinated. Californian poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*,
 252 Cham.) plants were used as phytometers to measure pollination services. Phytometers have been

253 shown to be a consistent and cost effective method for measuring pollination services (Woodcock *et*
254 *al.*, 2014). Californian poppy was chosen because it is an ornamental species not found in the
255 natural environment that performed well in field trials. This allowed us to standardise the
256 availability of pollen, which is important because it allows us to measure insect pollination services
257 in a way that is not affected by the distribution of a particular native plant species in the landscape.
258 It is an open-access flower accessible by a wide range of pollinators and so can be used as proxy of
259 ambient pollination services.

260

261 Phytometer sampling points were allocated using the same proportional stratified sampling design
262 used for pollinator surveys. The proportion of phytometer points in crop habitats was 53.6 % (ELS),
263 38.0 % (CG) and 47.0 % (Org). Phytometers were placed 50 cm apart at the central point.
264 Phytometers remained in pots which were partly sunk into the soil. Surrounding vegetation was
265 flattened within a 1 m radius to allow access to flowers by pollinators and prevent shading of the
266 phytometers. Phytometers were watered well on setting out, once during the exposure period and
267 once upon collection.

268

269 On setting out, phytometers were classified using a three point plant vigour score based on a visual
270 appraisal of health. Where livestock were in fields, phytometers were placed at field edges behind
271 fences. Where possible plants were arranged in a triangle, but if not possible they were arranged in
272 a line. Phytometers were exposed on-site for three weeks, after which they were collected and any
273 damage or drought was noted. They were then left in pollinator exclusion cages whilst fruit ripening
274 occurred. Fruit set, defined as the proportion of nodes which contained at least one developed
275 seed, along with the number of seeds per fruit were counted.

276

277 2.7. Data analysis

278 Sampling points were divided into crop and non-crop habitats to further investigate differences
279 between schemes, since organic farming affects the cropped areas of the farm, whereas the majority
280 of the ELS and CG schemes are focused on non-cropped areas. Crop habitats were defined as fields
281 reseeded annually with a crop other than grass, as part of an arable rotation. Grassland (including
282 grass/clover mixes), hedgerows, field margins, and other non-production areas were classified as
283 non-crop habitats. Improved grassland was not classified with crop habitats as 'production area'
284 because the differences between organic and non-organic systems are expected to be largest in
285 arable fields.

286

287 To compare floral resources, pollinators and pollination services among schemes we used
288 generalised linear mixed effects models (GLMMs) from the package lme4 (Bates *et al.*, 2014) with
289 nested random effects (farms within regions). The probability of presence of floral resource,
290 pollinators and pollination service at the ten proportionally allocated sampling points were modelled
291 using GLMMs with binomial distributions, with scheme as a predictor variable.

292

293 Flower density was log+1 transformed and modelled using a GLMM with Gaussian errors. For flower
 294 density models, heteroscedascity of residuals could not be reduced, so estimates and SE values are
 295 reported from post-hoc tests as the p values were considered unreliable. Flower diversity was
 296 analysed using a GLMM with a Gamma error distribution since it was positive continuous data. Total
 297 floral resource at the farm scale was estimated by multiplying the habitat flower density by the
 298 habitat area, summing across habitat types, and dividing by total farm area. Area of hedgerows was
 299 estimated using length multiplied by a mean width of 1.93 m (data from 14 hedges in Berkshire and
 300 Oxfordshire, Garratt, M.P. pers. comm.).

301

302 In order to reduce overdispersion, the GLMMs for density of bees and hoverflies used a log-normal
 303 Poisson distribution (Elston *et al.*, 2001) and for species richness of bees used a negative binomial
 304 distribution. The covariates temperature, wind, cloud, proportion of mass flowering crop and
 305 proportion of semi-natural habitat in 1km buffer around sampling points were include in pollinator
 306 models. Number of bee species per scheme was rarefied to the minimum number of individuals per
 307 scheme using the rarecurve function in the vegan package (Oksanen *et al.*, 2015).

308 Full pollination service models included plant vigour score, proportion of semi-natural habitat and
 309 mass flowering crop in a 1 km radius around sampling points, scheme type, and distance to nearest
 310 field edge. The latter variable was included to account for the potentially confounding influence of
 311 phytometers needing to be moved to the edge of fields to avoid livestock and farm operations more
 312 on some farms than others. Survival in crop vs. non-crop habitats was marginally significantly
 313 different between schemes (Non-crop habitats, Org: 61, CG: 59, ELS: 35, $\text{Chi}^2(2) = 5.70, p=0.058$).
 314 Therefore, distance to nearest surviving phytometer (log transformed) was included in models to
 315 account for the potential confounding effect of scheme on phytometer mortality. Fruit set was
 316 modelled using a binomial GLMM and sampling point was included as a random effect. Due to
 317 excess zeros and overdispersion in the number of seeds per plant data, a zero inflated negative
 318 binomial (ZINB) model (Zuur *et al.*, 2009) was used. Data were summed at the sampling point level,
 319 because random effects could not be incorporated into ZINB models. The full model included a term
 320 for the number of surviving nodes at each sampling point. For testing correlations between flower
 321 density and fruit set, a binomial error distribution was used. For testing correlations between flower
 322 density and seed set, both variables were log+1 transformed and a Gaussian error distribution was
 323 used.

324

325 Likelihood ratio tests (LRT Chi^2) were used to test for the significance of scheme and the interaction
 326 of habitat type (crop/non-crop) with scheme. We applied post-hoc simultaneous tests for general
 327 linear hypotheses (from the multcomp package, Hothorn *et al.*, 2008), using contrast matrices to test
 328 for differences between crop and non-crop habitats within each scheme type and between schemes
 329 within each habitat type. Data analysis was carried out using R version 3.1.2 (R Core Team, 2014).

330

331 **3. Results**

332 *3.1.1. Spatial distribution of floral resources between habitats*

333 The proportion of sampling points with insect-rewarding plants present was higher on organic
 334 compared to ELS farms, (LRT $\text{Chi}^2(2) = 9.552, p=0.008$, Post-hoc test: Org>ELS: 0.001, Figure C.1).

335 However the proportion of sampling points with bees, hoverflies, insect-flower visits or fruit set
336 present did not vary between schemes (Appendix C, Table C.1).

337

338 The total floral resource from crop habitats (cereal and mass flowering crop) was higher on organic
339 farms (46 %) compared to CG (11 %) or ELS farms (0.28 %, Table 1), particularly due to the high
340 contribution from plants in mass flowering crop fields on organic farms. CG farms had the highest
341 average contribution from ES margin and grass habitats combined. ELS farms varied widely in the
342 spatial distribution of floral resources, with one having a particularly large area of floristically dense
343 grassland due to clover having being drilled into improved grass for silage.

344

345 The sampling points with the highest flower density in each scheme were all non-crop habitats: CG:
346 field corner, ELS: grass/clover ley and organic: low-input grassland. The plants which contributed the
347 most to each of these habitats were: CG field corner; 96% *Tripleurospermum inodorum* L. Sch.Bip.
348 (scentless mayweed), ELS grass/clover ley; 97% *Trifolium pratense* L. (red clover) and organic low
349 input-grassland; 75% *Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam. (oxeye daisy).

350

351 A range of organic crop habitats had open floral resources present, including cereals (arable silage,
352 einkorn, spelt, barley oats and wheat), and mass flowering crops (lucerne, lucerne/sanfoin silage,
353 clover and field beans, Table 1). The three plants with the highest open flower density in organic
354 crop habitats were *Tripleurospermum inodorum*, *Trifolium repens* L. (white clover) and *Sinapis*
355 *arvensis* L. (charlock). In organic crop fields, 84% of insect-rewarding flowers were from non-sown
356 species. The most common sown species with open flowers were white clover (9%) and lucerne
357 (6%).

358

359 3.1.2. Differences between crop and non-crop habitats in flower density and diversity

360 There was a significant interaction between scheme and habitat type in explaining variation in
361 flower density (LRT $\text{Chi}^2(2) = 8.357$, $p=0.015$, Figure 2a). Post-hoc tests revealed that flower density
362 was higher in non-crop habitat than in crop habitats on ELS (Estimate \pm SE: 3.31 ± 0.74) and CG farms
363 (3.59 ± 0.79). Crop habitats supported a higher flower density on organic farms compared to ELS
364 (3.72 ± 1.18) or CG farms (3.71 ± 1.14). There were no significant differences between schemes in
365 flower Shannon diversity in non-crop habitats (LRT $\text{Chi}^2(2) = 0.360$, $p=0.835$, Figure 2b).

366

367 3.2.3. Differences between crop and non-crop habitats in pollinator density and diversity

368 There were no significant interactions between scheme and habitat type (crop or non-crop) in
369 explaining bee species richness (LRT $\text{Chi}^2(2) = 0.366$, $p=0.833$, Figure 3a), hoverfly density (LRT Chi^2
370 $(2) = 1.082$, $p=0.582$, Figure 3b) or bee density (LRT $\text{Chi}^2(2) = 4.161$, $p=0.125$, Figure 3c). There was a
371 significantly higher density of bees (LRT $\text{Chi}^2(1) = 16.60$, $p<0.001$) and species richness of bees (LRT
372 $\text{Chi}^2(1) = 4.707$, $p=0.030$) in non-crop habitats than in crop habitats overall. Habitat type did not
373 have a significant independent effect on hoverfly density (LRT $\text{Chi}^2(1) = 0.162$, $p=0.688$).

374

375 *3.1.4. Differences between crop and non-crop habitats in insect-wildflower visitation*

376 There was a significant interaction between scheme and habitat type in explaining density of
 377 wildflower visits made by bees (LRT $\text{Chi}^2(2) = 11.65$, $p=0.003$, Figure 3d). Post-hoc tests revealed
 378 that on CG and ELS farms there were significantly more bee visits to wildflowers in non-crop
 379 compared to crop habitats (CG: $p<0.001$, ELS: $p<0.001$) whereas on organic farms there were no
 380 significant differences between crop and non-crop habitats ($p=0.292$). There was insufficient data
 381 on density of hoverfly visits to be analysed.

382

383 *3.1.5. Differences between crop and non-crop habitats in pollination services*

384 There was an interaction between scheme and habitat type in explaining fruit set of phytometers
 385 (LRT $\text{Chi}^2=10.79$, $p=0.005$, Figure 4). Post-hoc tests revealed that organic crop habitats supported
 386 significantly higher fruit set than CG crop habitats ($p<0.001$) or ELS crop habitats ($p<0.001$). In
 387 addition, ELS non-crop habitats supported significantly higher fruit set than ELS crop habitats ($p=$
 388 0.022). There was no significant interaction between habitat type and scheme in explaining seeds
 389 per node per phytometer plant (LRT $\text{Chi}^2 = 1.018$, $df=2$, $p=0.601$).

390

391 *3.2 Farm level flower density, pollinator density, diversity and pollination service*392 *3.2.1 Flower density*

393 Flower density at the farm scale did not differ significantly between schemes (Friedman $\text{Chi}^2 = 1.5$, df
 394 $= 2$, $p\text{-value} = 0.472$). The gamma diversity (total species richness per farm) of open flowering plants
 395 did not vary significantly between schemes (Friedman $\text{Chi}^2=2$, $df=2$, $p=0.368$).

396

397 *3.2.2. Pollinator density and species richness*

398 In pan traps we recorded 52 bee species, and on transects we recorded 925 bee individuals and 386
 399 hoverfly individuals. CG farms showed a weak tendency towards supporting a higher density of bees
 400 on transects at the farm level, once an outlier with a particularly high density of honeybees on
 401 restored organic heathland was removed, (Org=235, CG=283, ELS=243, $\text{Chi}^2(2)=5.214$, $p=0.074$). ELS
 402 farms supported a higher density of hoverflies overall (Org=113, CG=116, ELS=157, $\text{Chi}^2(2)=9.394$,
 403 $p=0.009$). At the point level, there were no significant differences in bee density (LRT $\text{Chi}^2(2)=0.04$,
 404 $p=0.98$) or hoverfly density (LRT $\text{Chi}^2(2)=0.523$, $p=0.77$) between schemes.

405

406 There was no significant difference in the total species richness of bees recorded in pan traps
 407 between schemes (Org=36, CG=28, ELS=43, $\text{Chi}^2(2)=3.159$, $p=0.206$). Rarefaction reduced
 408 differences between schemes (Estimated species richness: ELS: 42.2 ± 0.869 , Org: 34.3 ± 1.21 , when
 409 rarefied to the same level as CG: 28 species, 552 individuals). At the point level, there were no

410 significant overall differences between schemes in bee density (LRT $\chi^2(2)=0.04$, $p=0.98$), bee
 411 species richness (LRT $\chi^2(2)=4.38$, $p=0.219$) or hoverfly density (LRT $\chi^2(2)=0.523$, $p=0.77$).

412

413 3.2.3. Insect-wildflower visitation

414 The total number of bee visits to wildflowers at the farm scale differed significantly between
 415 schemes, with CG farms supporting the highest number of insect-flower visits ($\chi^2(2)=8.603$,
 416 $p=0.014$, CG =217, ELS=160, Org=190) once the outlier was removed (one sampling point in organic
 417 restored heathland with a high density of honeybees). The top three habitats for insect visitation
 418 density were a naturally regenerated managed field corner on a CG farm (EF1), a floristically
 419 enhanced margin on an organic farm (HE10), and a field margin with a high density of *Centaurea*
 420 *nigra* L. (common knapweed) on an ELS farm. The majority of insect-wildflower visits were carried
 421 out by wild bees (66%), followed by honeybees (20%), and hoverflies (14%). The red-tailed
 422 bumblebee *Bombus lapidarius* (L.) made up 61% of all wild bee visits to wildflowers. Plants which
 423 received particularly high numbers of visits were *Erica tetralix* L. (cross-leaved heather, mostly
 424 visited by *Apis mellifera* at the heathland restoration point), *Centaurea nigra*, *Cirsium arvense* (L.)
 425 Scop. (creeping thistle) and *Chamerion angustifolium* (L.) Holub (rosebay willowherb).

426

427 3.2.4. Pollination service

428 Survival of phytometers varied between schemes: Org: 97, CG: 89, ELS: 72, ($\chi^2(2) = 13.4$, $p=0.002$).
 429 Survival was influenced by drought, damage by farm machinery and herbicide spraying. Farm type
 430 had a marginally significant effect on farm level of fruit set per plant (Mean fruit set (%) \pm SE: Org =
 431 72.5 ± 2.9 , CG = 56.6 ± 3.6 , ELS = 51.9 ± 4.4 , LRT $\chi^2(2) = 5.773$, $p=0.056$) and organic farms
 432 supported higher fruit set than ELS and CG (Post-hoc test: Org>ELS, $p=0.011$, Org>CG, $p=0.021$).
 433 Seeds per node per plant was not significantly affected by scheme $\chi^2(2)=3.034$, $p=0.219$).

434

435 Floral resource density had a significant positive effect on fruit set (LRT $\chi^2(1) = 164$, $p<0.001$), but
 436 only explained 16% of the variation (marginal $R^2 = 0.159$, conditional $R^2 = 0.205$). Variation in seeds
 437 per node per plant was not significantly related to surrounding flower density (LRT $\chi^2(1) = 1.288$,
 438 $p=0.257$).

439

440 4. Discussion

441 4.1. Spatial distribution of floral resources, pollinators and pollination services

442 On organic farms, we found that a greater proportion of the farm had floral resources present in July
 443 and August, since both crop and non-crop habitats delivered floral resources. The greater density of
 444 flowering plants in organic crop fields was consistent with other studies (Fuller *et al.*, 2005,
 445 Holzschuh *et al.*, 2008). Pollination service and bee-wildflower visits were higher in organic crop
 446 fields compared to non-organic crop fields. This is in line with findings that organic farming
 447 disproportionately benefits insect-pollinated plants (Gabriel and Tschardt, 2007, Power *et al.*,
 448 2012, Batáry *et al.*, 2013). However, in contrast to other studies (Rundlöf *et al.*, 2008, Holzschuh *et*

449 *al.*, 2007), we did not find a higher species richness or density of bees in organic crop fields. This
450 may be because the pan trap and transect methods intercepted pollinators flying through the
451 habitat, rather than only recording pollinators using the habitat. The moderating effect of landscape
452 context could also explain the low effect size for organic farming on species richness and density of
453 bees in our study. Positive effects of organic farming on bee abundance and species richness have
454 been found in homogeneous landscapes (>60% arable land) but not in heterogeneous landscapes
455 (15-16% arable land) in Sweden (Rundlöf *et al.*, 2008). In our study the proportion of arable land in a
456 1km radius buffer around our farms was 7- 36%, which is relatively low compared to the Swedish
457 study. This will have reduced the ecological contrast in floral resources that the schemes created
458 compared to the surrounding landscapes.

459

460 CG and ELS farms supported a significantly higher density of flowers and insect-wildflower visits in
461 non-crop habitats compared to crop habitats, which was consistent with Pywell *et al.*, (2005). We
462 expected non-crop habitats on CG and organic farms to have higher floral resource densities than
463 those on ELS farms, since three-quarters of the CG and organic farms had HLS scheme managed non-
464 crop areas. Wood *et al.*, (2015b), found higher floral abundance on HLS farms implementing flower-
465 rich margin options compared to ELS farms not implementing such options. However, flower density
466 was not higher in CG compared to ELS non-crop habitats in our study. This appears to have been
467 because some of the ELS farms in our study supported high non-crop densities of floral resource in
468 habitats such as field corners (EF1), buffer strips (EE3), and improved grass/clover leys. However,
469 after field surveys, one ELS farm removed the arable buffer strips (EE3) which contributed a high
470 density of *Centaurea nigra* and insect-flower visits. This demonstrates the vulnerability of habitats in
471 flexible schemes such as ELS, compared to more prescriptive schemes such as CG and longer-term
472 agreements such as HLS.

473

474 4.2. Farm level of floral resource, pollinators and pollination services

475 Farm level floral resource provision and pollinator diversity did not differ significantly between
476 schemes, contrary to expectations. However, CG farms supported a significantly higher overall
477 number of bee-flower visits, showing that the more prescriptive pollinator management was
478 successfully attracting foraging bees. This emphasises the importance of prescriptive non-crop
479 habitats, in addition to organic farming as measures to help reverse species declines in agricultural
480 ecosystems.

481

482 Our results suggest that the benefits of organic farming for pollination services were mediated more
483 by the enhancement of local floral resources than by enhancement of the local density and/or
484 diversity of pollinators. Our results concur with those of Power and Stout, (2011) who found that
485 organic farms supported a higher floral abundance and higher level of pollination service to
486 hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna* Jacq.). Facilitation of pollination services by nearby floral resources
487 has also been found for weeds in sunflower crops (Carvalho *et al.*, 2011) and uncultivated areas
488 next to oilseed rape crops (Morandin and Winston, 2006).

489

490 4.3 Implications for management

491 Our study took place in the later stage of the pollinator season in the UK, after the majority of the
492 mass flowering crop (oilseed rape) had flowered. This time of year tends to be when bee
493 populations are most limited by floral resource (Persson and Smith, 2013). Our results emphasise
494 the importance of managed non-crop habitat areas (such as floristically enhanced margins which
495 received the highest density of insect visits in this study) and organic crop areas in providing floral
496 resources for pollinators at this time of year. Further work will examine how the relative
497 contributions of different habitats in the farmed landscape changes throughout the season.

498

499 Organic farming supported an ecosystem service (pollination) to a greater extent than non-organic
500 wildlife-friendly farming schemes in our study. Organic farming is an example of ecological
501 intensification: the shift towards managing ecosystem services to support agricultural production
502 and away from synthetic inputs (Bommarco *et al.*, 2013). This type of management will result in
503 trade-offs and synergies for different ecosystem services. We found enhanced pollination services
504 at the farm scale on organic farms and a greater floral resource in organic crop habitats. The
505 management practices which are likely to have contributed (legume cropping and reduced herbicide
506 use) are likely to create synergistic benefits for soil fertility (Watson *et al.*, 2002) and weed seed
507 predation (Diekötter *et al.*, 2010). Management practices commonly used in organic farming, such
508 as reduced herbicide use and sowing clover, are likely to be beneficial in non-organic systems for
509 supporting pollination services at both farm and landscape scales.

510

511 When considering management for pollination services, it is important to consider trade-offs with
512 other ecosystem services. Wild plants in crop fields could enhance ecosystem services (pollination,
513 pest control by natural enemies, nitrogen fixation) or provide disservices to crop production
514 (competition for resources with the crop, supporting pests). Determining economic thresholds for
515 weed tolerance in different crops is an important area of future research, and one factor to take into
516 account is the pollinator dependence of the crop (Deguines *et al.*, 2014). There are potentially
517 opposing effects of weeds on yields for insect-pollinator-dependent vs. independent crops
518 (Bretagnolle and Gaba, 2015). Although our study was not designed to look at yields, farm intensity
519 data collected through farmer interviews revealed that organic winter wheat yields were
520 significantly lower than CG and ELS (winter wheat tonnes/ha mean \pm SE, ELS: 7.00 ± 0.23 , CG: $8.04 \pm$
521 0.30 , Org: 3.06 ± 0.17 , Appendix A, Table A.2). Larger sample sizes show the yield gap for winter
522 wheat in England and Wales averaged 50% between 2009-2014 (Moakes, Lampkin & Gerrard 2015,
523 full list of reports in Appendix C). Where farm management aims to support high wheat yields and
524 pollinators within the same farm, our results suggest the CG scheme is likely to be more appropriate.

525

526 Deciding which wildlife-friendly farming scheme individual farms should enter is a process that
527 needs to be spatially optimised at both landscape and national scales. Factors to consider include
528 landscape level biodiversity and food production targets, starting conditions and the productivity of
529 the land. Spatial targeting is being used for both tiers in the new Countryside Stewardship scheme
530 which is replacing Environmental Stewardship (Natural England, 2015) and this process has potential
531 to be improved through better data and models. Our study stimulates further research questions on
532 which schemes or management practices will optimise pollination services to specific crops and
533 stimulates debate about potential trade-offs between managing for insect-pollinator dependent and
534 independent crops. This will involve consideration of how best to facilitate crop conspecific pollen

535 transfer and reduce potential pollen competition between crop plants and co-flowering species
536 (Schüepp *et al.*, 2014).

537

538 **5. Conclusion**

539 Our research has explored three contrasting approaches towards management of biodiversity and
540 ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes. The most holistic approach (organic) supported the
541 highest level of pollination service, and the most prescriptive non-organic approach (CG) supported
542 the highest farm level density of insect visits, but these were more concentrated in non-crop areas.
543 The basic, flexible approach (ELS) still supported high flower densities in non-crop habitats and a
544 similar farm level pollination service to the CG scheme. Our work furthers the understanding of how
545 different habitat elements under contrasting wildlife-friendly farming schemes support pollination
546 services.

547

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555

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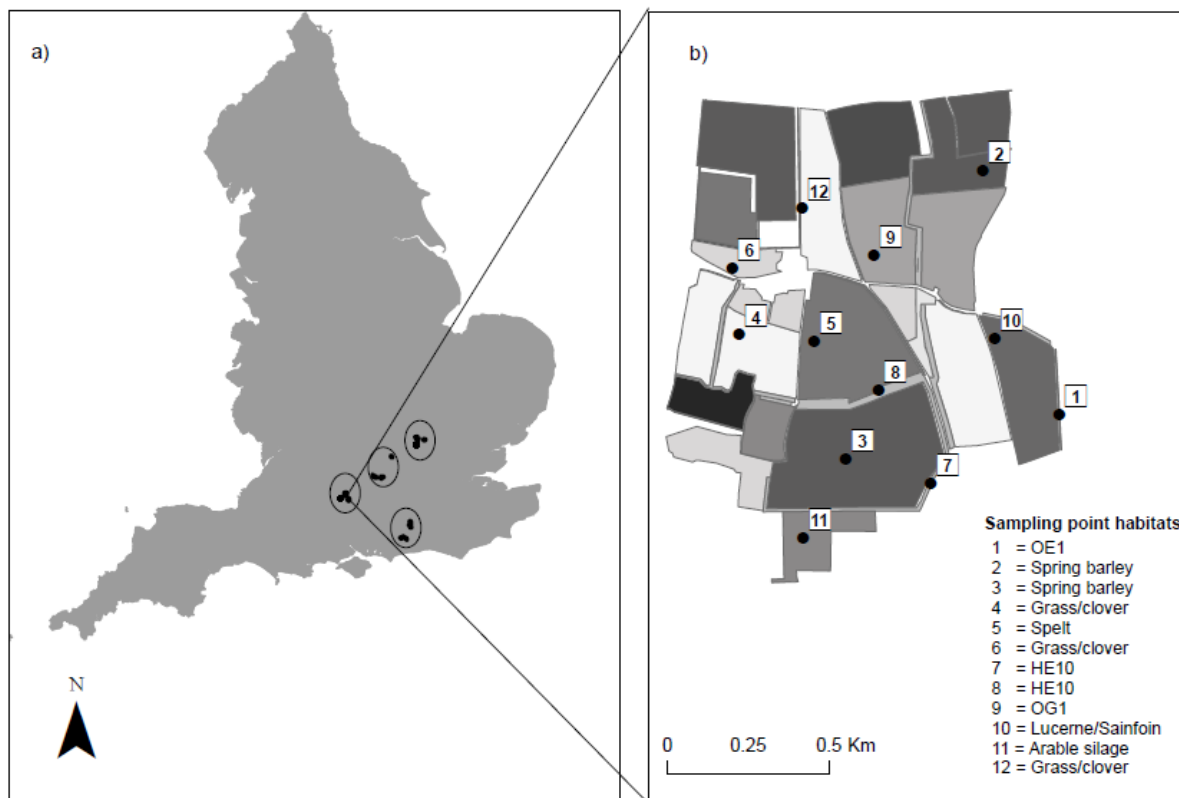
737 Table 1. The proportion of total flowers (%) contributed by each habitat type to the total farm level
 738 flower abundance on farms in three different wildlife-friendly farming schemes (mean and SE across
 739 four farms per scheme). ELS = Entry Level Stewardship, CG = Conservation Grade, org = organic, ES =
 740 Environmental Stewardship, Imp. grass = improved grass, MFC = mass flowering crop and other =
 741 fallow, tree planting, woodland, game cover.

| | ES grass | ES margin | Hedgerow | Imp. grass | MFC | Cereal | Other |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| ELS | 5.2 ± 2.9 | 50.3 ± 21.0 | 2.4 ± 1.1 | 24.7 ± 21.2 | 0.3 ± 0.2 | 0 ± 0 | 0.2 ± 0.15 |
| CG | 35.4 ± 10.7 | 39.2 ± 17.2 | 9.5 ± 7.4 | 2.1 ± 1.5 | 0 ± 0 | 10.9 ± 9.3 | 3.08 ± 1.38 |
| Org | 39.1 ± 14.9 | 0.6 ± 0.3 | 5.4 ± 3.9 | 8.9 ± 2.8 | 36.2 ± 15.5 | 9.8 ± 5.3 | 0.05 ± 0.04 |

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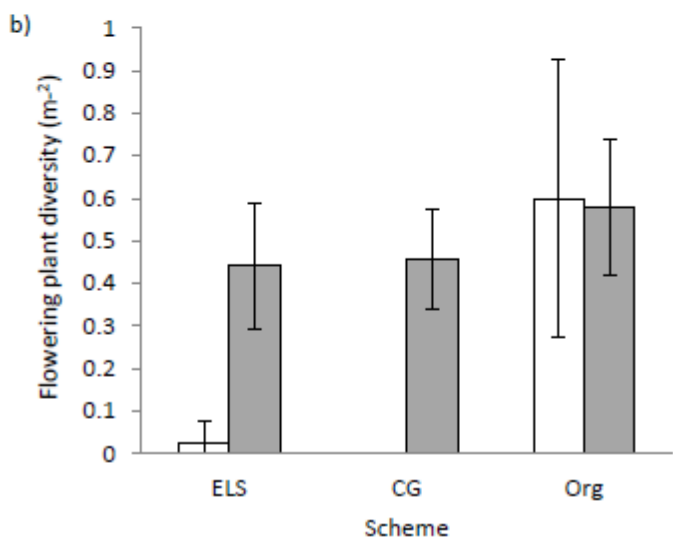
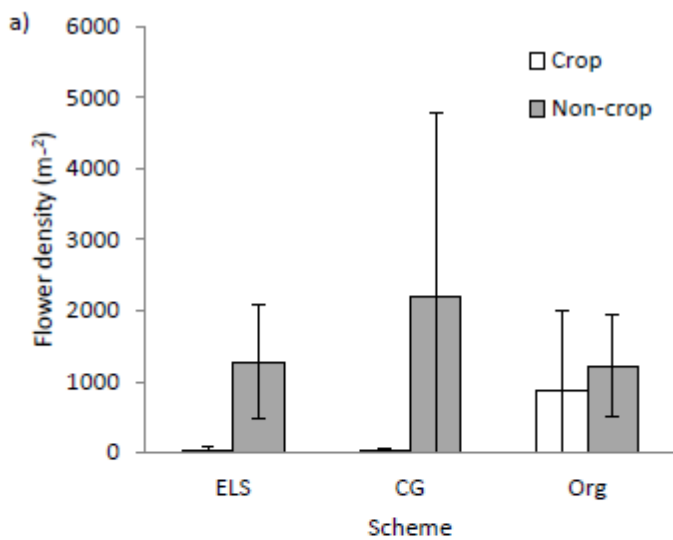


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746 Figure 1: a) Map of England showing the location of the twelve study farms (black dots) in four
 747 matched regional triplets (ovals), b) map of one organic study farm showing the location of the
 748 twelve pollinator sampling points on a habitat map. The legend shows which habitat each sampling
 749 point was in, including some habitats classified using their Environmental Stewardship option codes.
 750 The crop habitats were arable silage, einkorn, lucerne/sainfoin, spelt and spring barley. The non-
 751 crop habitats were grass/clover, HE10: Floristically enhanced grass buffer strips, OE1: 2 m buffer
 752 strips on rotational land and OK3: Permanent grassland with very low inputs.

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754 Figure 2. Bar plots showing mean flower density (a) and flowering plant Shannon diversity (b) in crop
755 and non-crop habitats on farms in three different wildlife-friendly farming schemes (ELS = Entry
756 Level Stewardship, CG = Conservation Grade, Org = Organic). Error bars show 95% confidence
757 intervals.



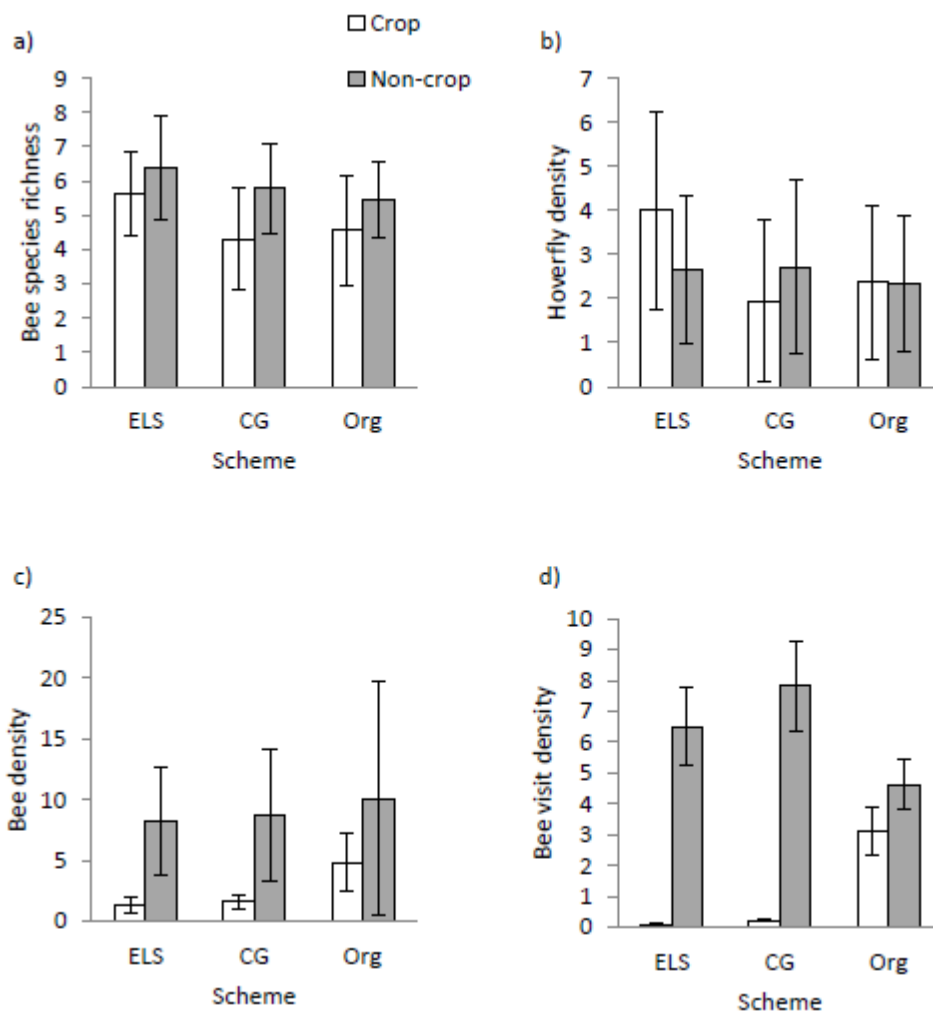
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761 Figure 3: Bar plots showing means with error bars showing 95% confidence intervals for a) bee
 762 species richness, b) hoverfly density, c) bee density and d) bee-flower visit density, recorded on
 763 twelve transects, each 100 m long and 2 m wide, in crop and non-crop habitats on farms in different
 764 wildlife-friendly farming schemes: ELS =Entry Level Stewardship, CG =Conservation Grade and Org
 765 =Organic.

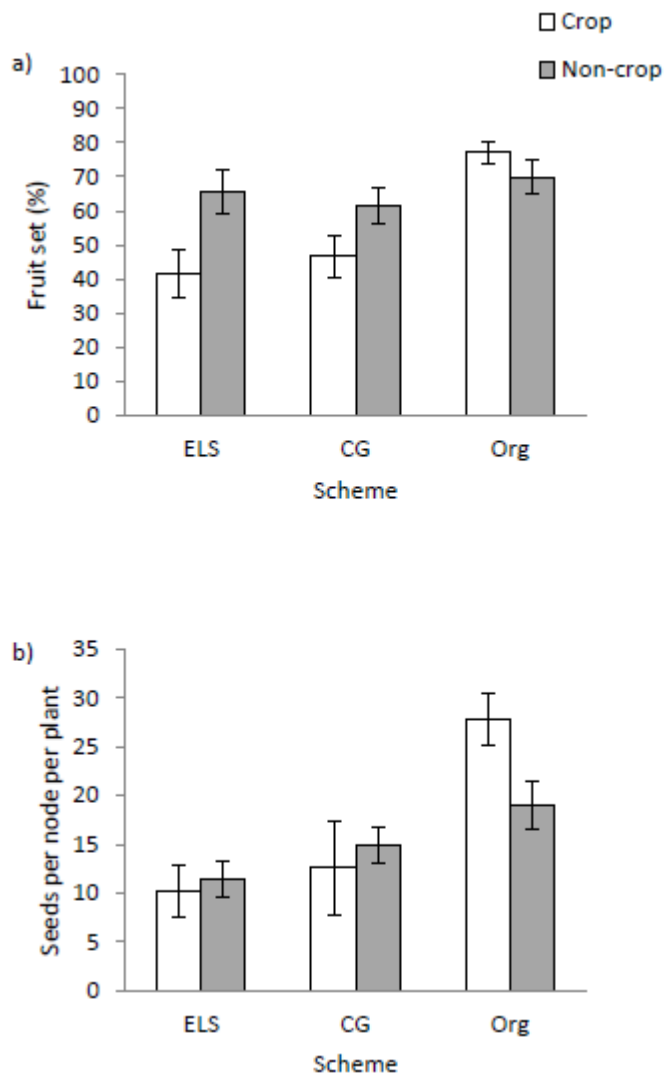
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769 Figure 4: Bar plots showing means for pollination service measured as fruit set and seeds per node
770 per phytometer plant recorded in crop and non-crop habitats on farms in three different wildlife-
771 friendly farming schemes (ELS = Entry Level Stewardship, CG = Conservation Grade, Org = Organic).
772 Error bars show 95% confidence intervals.



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