



# A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

## Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

**River Basin District: North West**  
**Catchment: Alt & Crossens**

**Total Area: 396 km<sup>2</sup>**

### Reasons for designation

The Alt and Crossens catchment has moderate to high levels of phosphate, although these are not linked to agriculture but rather septic tanks and the sewage treatment works. Although pesticides are not currently tested for in the catchment, several of the stretches of rivers have poor ecological and chemical status as well as low invertebrate numbers which suggest a potential pesticide issue. The Alt and Crossens has a bathing water failure area which is thought to relate to faecal indicator organisms (FIOs) but is not related to agriculture. The catchment has been designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone since 2002. The CSF catchment was designated in 2012 and delivery is undertaken solely by contractors with no CSFO input.

### Priorities

Bathing Water Failure area – test sites located at Formby, Ainsdale and Southport detected faecal indicator organisms which are thought to be related to the sewage treatment works and septic tanks and not from agriculture.

Pesticides – possible pesticide issue in the catchment which is causing low invertebrate numbers.

### Objectives

- Reduce pesticide losses during sprayer loading and wash down
- Reduce nitrates entering watercourses

### Delivery

In order to address the pesticide issues in the catchment, there will be a number of group events and 1:1 visits available to farmers within the catchment. As the catchment is designated as an NVZ, there will be a workshop available for farmers to attend and learn more about what this means for them. Machinery testing and calibration as well as biobed and pesticide handling workshops will also be run in the catchment.

For 1:1 visits, there will be whole farm plans, machinery testing and calibration, pesticide handling and application and biobed and pesticide facilities visits available. It is anticipated that this advice will lead to changes in management practice that will reduce the amount of pesticides entering watercourses from farm holdings.

We are also offering soil testing, soil husbandry and water management visits. These will provide advice on reducing the risk of soil erosion from vulnerable soils and prudent nutrient planning and use which will reduce nutrient losses to water courses.

The Capital Grant Scheme (CSF) will be available within the target area of the catchment, which will focus on reducing the amount of pesticides and sediment entering the watercourses.

# Targeting Map

