



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: North West Catchment: River Wyre Total Area: 548km²

Reasons for designation

Initial designation was based on Environment Agency monitoring data indicating poor water quality, particularly phosphorus levels and sediment. Additional evidence established a drinking water issue. Though not a reason for the designation in Phase 1 of Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF), changes to EU regulation has precipitated including the contribution of diffuse water pollution from agriculture to Bathing and Shellfish Water failures as priorities for CSF in Phase 3 in the River Wyre.

Priorities

Bathing Water: Fleetwood.

Under the revised Bathing Waters Directive, Fleetwood bathing water is projected as poor, 2005-08, 2006-09, 2007-10 & 2008-11.

The River Wyre is considered to have a major impact on Fleetwood Bathing Water.

Shellfish Water: Lune Broadfleet and Lune Wyre Estuary.

Both shellfish waters failed to achieve the guideline standard for faecal coliform in flesh in 2010 & 2011.

The River Wyre has been identified as impacting on both Shellfish Waters.

Drinking Water Protected Area (DrWPA) (Surface) – Upper Wyre, (GB112072065820) Impacted by MCPA, used as a grassland herbicide in the catchment. Concentrations before treatment detected above drinking water standard.

Where there is overlap with the above priorities, CSF will also address:

Water bodies failing to achieve Good Ecological Status - Majority of the catchment is classified as moderate. A small number of stretches are classed as poor or bad, and a small number of stretches are classed as good.

No SSSIs failing due to diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA), therefore not a priority for CSF in the Wyre Catchment.

Objectives

The principal objective of CSF delivery in the catchment is to raise farmer awareness of DWPA to encourage them to take active steps towards reducing the faecal indicator organism (FIO) load entering the catchment by:

- Better management of manures and slurry.
- Promoting the improvement of farm yard infrastructure to improve clean and dirty water separation and risk of runoff to clean water drains and streams
- Encouraging livestock practices which reduce the sediment and FIO input to the catchment
- Promoting exclusion of livestock from watercourses
- Increasing understanding of soil issues and management techniques to improve soil structure, and reduce risk of runoff from land
- Improving the management of manure, slurry and fertiliser for increased nutrient use efficiency
- Influencing farmer behaviour with regard to pesticide issues in DrWPA priority sub-catchments

Delivery

Whole Farm Audits will identify pathways and risk of FIOs, sediment and nutrients reaching the watercourse. Key farms will be encouraged to utilise the CSF Capital Grants Scheme to improve infrastructure and reduce the risk of FIOs entering watercourses. Farmers will also be encouraged to develop their own nutrient management plans to better manage slurry and manures, and improve their overall efficiency of nutrient use.

Specific risks associated with MCPA and recommendations for best practice will be highlighted within the DrWPA priority sub-catchments, with continued promotion of best practice for grassland pesticides in association with the Voluntary Initiative.

An evening meeting towards the end of phase 3 will bring together all the CSF work over the life of the project. This will encapsulate a positive message which potentially will be reinforced by the CSF monitoring data from the Wyre catchment showing an improving situation over the period of the CSF initiative.

Targeting Map

