



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: North West

Catchment: Bassenthwaite Lake & Derwent Tributaries Total Area: 685km²

Reasons for designation

Farms around the Bassenthwaite Lake and its tributaries have been targeted for diffuse water pollution from agriculture since 2006 (Phase 1) and will remain so over the 2011-2014 Phase 3 period to mitigate the buildup of phosphorous (P) and sediment in Bassenthwaite Lake.

The River Marron & Sandy Beck (SSSI) have been targeted for P and sediment. Broughton Beck, a tributary of the Lower Derwent is affected by phosphate, and falls within a Nitrates Vulnerable Zone.

Priorities

SSSI: Bassenthwaite Lake, River Marron, Sandy Beck & the Derwent Tributaries East of Bassenthwaite Lake.

These are failing their conservation objectives due to phosphate and sediment input.

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

Sheep dip: localised detection of sheep dip chemicals through Environment Agency monitoring activities. Diazinon (organophosphate sheep dip pesticide) detection in Buttermere and Crummock Water.

Waterbodies failing to achieve Good Ecological Status

River Derwent and tributaries including Bassenthwaite Lake – moderate

Objective

- Reduce fertiliser loss from fields by offering professional advice on fertiliser input and general soil chemistry and structure.
- Change muck/slurry spreading techniques e.g. injection/trailing shoe, to optimise uptake of nutrients by grass.
- Increase waste storage capacity by intercepting rainfall using roofs and concrete yard drainage systems.
- Promote spreading of muck and slurry during warmer growing months.
- Reduce dirty water runoff from yard areas into watercourse through repairing and laying new yard drainage systems
- Repair, restore and relocate sheep handling facilities to reduce dirty water and sheep dip run-off into water course.
- Reduce the loss of sediment and soil-bound phosphate particles through increasing resilience of river bank, farm tracks, gateways, drinker and feeder standing areas.

Delivery

- Continue to improve farmer awareness throughout the catchment area by attending Cockermouth auction mart clinic and forging links within the third party and farming sectors and hosting joint advisory events
- Although the project has been ongoing since 2006 and participation has been high, follow up and consolidation is still a priority.
- Delivery will re-introduce and upgrade nutrient management training throughout the Bassenthwaite Lake catchment as well as grassland management and infrastructure improvements. This will consolidate and reinforce training and advice previously delivered.
- New farmers to be targeted within the Bassenthwaite, Marron, Sandy Beck & Broughton Beck catchments via 1 to 1 visits for soil sampling, nutrient management, soil husbandry, infrastructure and whole farm appraisals
- Farmers within the catchment to be encouraged to attend a basic nutrient management planning workshop to enable them to undertake their own nutrient management planning
- Work closely with Natural England to influence Environmental Stewardship resource protection options and utilise opportunities for capital work.

Catchment Map

