



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary April 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: North West

Catchment: Rivers Kent and Leven Total Area: 696km²

Reasons for designation

The Rivers Kent and Leven were designated in Phase 2 (2009) to address the impacts of diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA) on the SSSIs of the River Kent, Esthwaite Water (Ramsar site), Leighton Moss and Hawes Water, of water quality in Windermere Lake, and of faecal organisms on the Shellfish Waters of Morecambe Bay. The Kent and Leven Priority Catchments are identified as catchments where voluntary uptake of advice could make a significant difference to the improvement of water quality.

Priorities

River Kent and tributaries SSSI: some stretches are in unfavourable condition. Agriculture is contributing to sediment and nutrient enrichment

Leighton Moss and Haweswater SSSIs: agriculture is contributing to sediment and nutrient enrichment.

Shellfish Water: Coastal modelling shows that loads from local rivers to Morecambe Bay East and Morcambe Bay (Leven) Shellfish Waters are significant sources of bacteriological pollution. Primarily the Rivers Kent, Keer, Winster and Bela impact on the Morcambe Bay (East) Shellfish Water; and the River Leven impact on the Morcambe Bay (Leven) Shellfish Water.

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.

Waterbodies Failing to achieve Good Ecological Status: there are a number of waterbodies at moderate or poor ecological status.

Objectives

- Reduce the loss of sediment, and associated soil-bound phosphate particles
- Reduce connectivity between the land and surface water
- Reduce inputs of fertiliser to reduce leaching to drains and run-off to surface waters, through soil sampling and nutrient management plans
- Reduce risk of Faecal Indicator Organisms reaching watercourses, through better infrastructure and yard management to contain dirty water, and reducing stock access to watercourses
- Reduce the loss of sheep dip to watercourses by targeting upland farms to ensure appropriate action is taken to manage sheep dip applications

Delivery

Riparian Zone - Farms with fields in the riparian zone of the River Kent and Burton Tributaries will be targeted and offered Soil and Nutrient Planning Services to address nutrients and sediment associated with soil wash and run-off, and to assess and address SSSI sites in 'Unfavourable' condition. Riparian owners will also be targeted through Environmental Stewardship and capital works under existing Environmental Stewardship where applicable.

Shellfish Waters: Livestock farms will be offered nutrient, livestock, and infrastructure planning services.

Maintenance work on the tributaries draining into the north of Windermere Lake, to ensure Bathing Waters (a priority in Phase 2) continue to meet good standards and Estwaite Water SSSI & Ramsar site, continues to recover from its unfavourable status. Continue to encourage implementation of recommendations to address nutrient and bacterial inputs which have significant impact on the water quality and amenity value.

CSF will work in partnership with organisations such as the Environment Agency, South Cumbria Rivers Trust, United Utilities, National Trust and Natural England colleagues to further prioritise farms and secure positive engagement

The submission of good quality Capital Grants Scheme (CGS) applications will be encouraged where they are likely to achieve the best results.

CSF will work to integrate with HLS and ELS on farm, where these schemes can help contribute to the above objectives.

Catchment Map

