



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: Severn
Total area: 843 km²

Catchment: River Wye

Reasons for designation

There are particular problems with water quality and lack of suitable fish habitat within the Wye Catchment. The Catchment also suffers heavily from sedimentation and high levels of phosphate from runoff of soil from agriculture as well as nutrient enrichment.

Priorities

The River Wye is designated as a European Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Water Framework Directive: Aim for the catchment to meet Good Ecological Status – majority of the catchment is classified as poor or moderate. A small number of stretches are classed as good.

Objectives

The aim in the catchment is to:

- Raise farmer awareness of Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture (DWPA):
- Reduce the loss of sediment and associated soil-bound phosphate and pesticides, through appropriate changes in land management
- Reduce connectivity between the land and surface water, through promotion of track management, increase understanding of soil issues and management techniques to improve soil structure.
- Reduce inputs of fertilizer to reduce leaching to groundwater and runoff to surface waters. It is also likely that changes to nutrient and soil management will reduce the sediment input to water courses.
- Encourage livestock practices which reduce sediment input to the catchment.
- Influence farmer behaviour towards sustainable water supply and use, by promoting rainwater harvesting & storage reservoirs with sediment reduction.
- Reduce losses of pesticides through promoting good yard practice.

Delivery

Delivery will focus on training farmers to develop nutrient management plans through on farm 1:1 training coupled with soil and manure/slurry sampling for individual farmers. Alongside this, 1:1 training will be delivered on soil and water issues around the farm through the mechanism of Water Management Plans and Soil Husbandry visits.

Work shops will be used to advise and train farmers about the principles of

nutrient budgeting and the use of computer programs to plan and record nutrient applications.

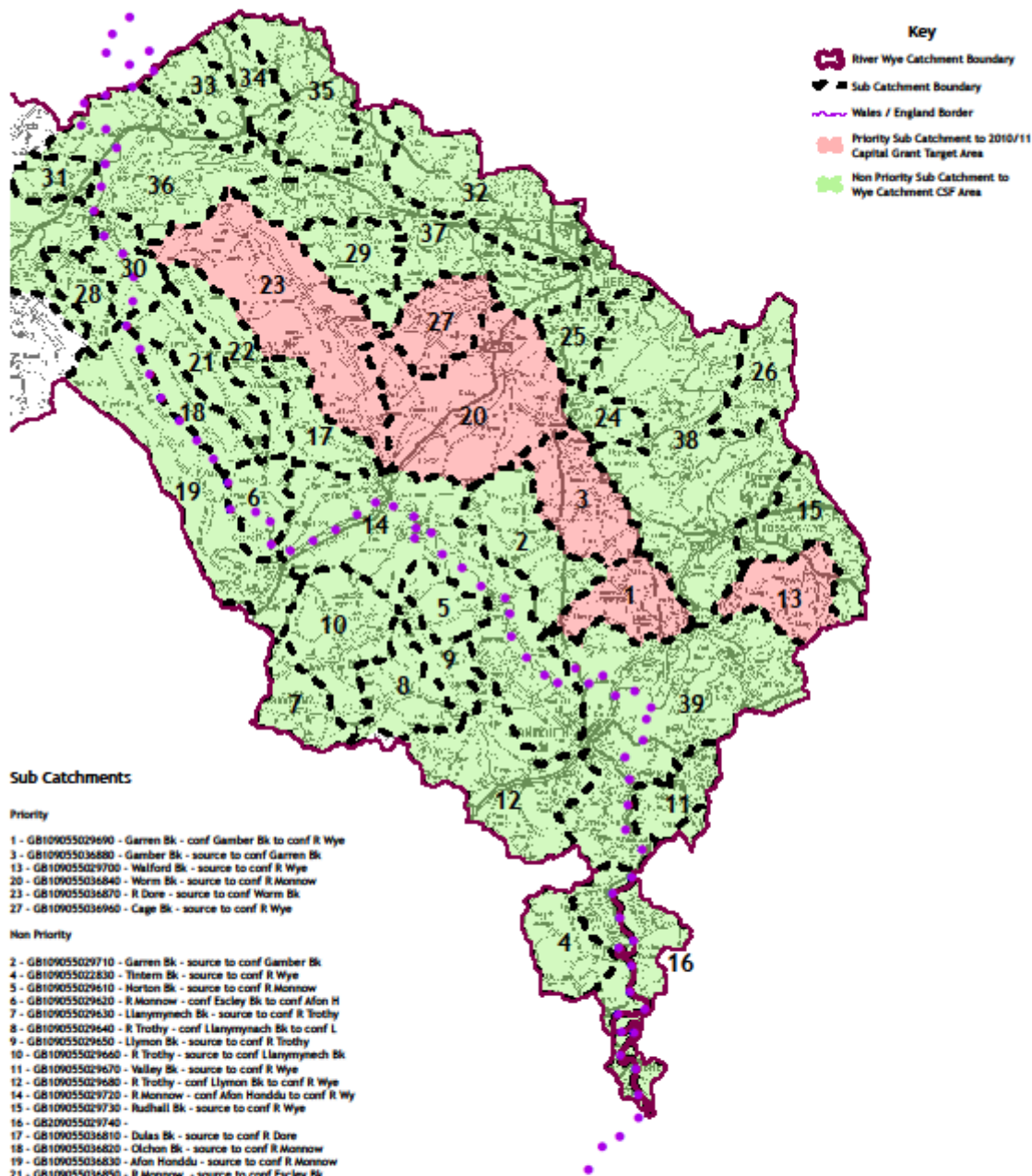
Demonstration days will also be used to train farmers about the principles of good pesticide management and the use of Biobeds.

Work shops will also be used to act as a forum to learn about sustainable water supplies and promote the use of winter storage reservoirs, to be followed up with 1:1 farm visits to identify the feasibility of implementing winter water storage reservoirs on the farm as a means of surface water & sediment control.

Continue to promote the Capital Grant Scheme as a mechanism for farmers to implement infrastructural changes on the farm to reduce DWPA, particularly for those who have received recommendations through CSF 1:1 visits/workshops & demo days.

Targeting Map

Wye Catchment (Eastern Section)



Map Produced by Neil Collett, Natural England
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Scale - 1:300,000

