A clear solution for farmers
CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary
March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: South West
Catchment: West Cornwall Catchments Total Area: 893 km^2

Reasons for Designation

These catchments have all been identified by the Environment Agency for being most at risk due to agricultural impacts.

Par:	Bathing Water at Risk at Par Beach
Cameras:	Bathing Water at Risk at Porthluney Beach
Fal & Tresillian:	Shell Fisheries Waters
Cober:	Ecological Status of Loe Pool SSSI
Marazion:	Ecological Status of Marazion Marsh SSSI

Par and Caerhays catchments lead down into the designated bathing waters of Par Beach and Porthluney Beach respectively. These beaches have been identified as 'at risk' of failing the stricter quality standards of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in 2015, specifically for levels of Faecal Indicator Organisms (FIO's), for example E Coli.
The Fal & Tresillian catchment is drained by the River Fal, which is an important shellfish water. Inputs of FIO's, sediment and nutrients into the estuary affect the quality of the water and threaten the viability of the shell fisheries.
The Cober catchment feeds into Loe Pool SSSI which is in Unfavourable Condition due to increased levels of phosphates and nitrates in the sediment, causing eutrophication.
The Marazion catchment feeds into Marazion Marsh SSSI, which is also in Unfavourable Condition. Monitoring of water quality in the Marsh shows increased levels of nitrates and phosphates, as well as a high rate of sedimentation.

Aims & Objectives

Within the catchment the aim is to raise the farmer's awareness of diffuse water pollution from agriculture, to increase the uptake of improvements through the Capital Grant Scheme, and to promote the Source/Pathway/Receptor approach in planning farm improvements.

Source

- To promote the benefits of reducing and containing yard run-off, separating clean and dirty water and handling and storing manure and slurry appropriately
- To reduce the loss of sediment (and associated phosphate) from fields through appropriate changes in land management and soil husbandry
- To improve the efficiency of manure, nutrient fertiliser and pesticide use through the promotion of soil testing and nutrient management planning

Pathway

- To reduce connectivity between the land and surface water through promotion of track management and by facilitating a better understanding of the soil and water relationship

Receptor

- To protect watercourses from pollution and erosion by fencing out livestock
- To improve the capture and storage of run-off and sediment by promoting in-field engineering and earthworks

Delivery

Farms of a 'high-priority' enterprise (dairy, livestock, pigs and poultry; horticulture cropping); and those in closest proximity to the water feature at risk; will be targeted first. Farms referred through discussion with the Environment Agency will also be a focus of advice.
The CSFO will proactively visit farms that have been identified as high priority. Also any farmer who contacts CSF will be offered a visit on-farm to explain our objectives and to discuss what help and support is appropriate, considering the farm situation, enterprise and location. The on-farm visit is to ensure that the appropriate advice is delivered to that farm, ensuring a close match between individual farm issues and advice received, and to ensure most effective use of CSF resources.

The Capital Grant Scheme will be offered in 2013 with visits and on-going support.
The following 1:1s and workshops will be offered:

- Farm Infrastructure Audits
- Soil Analysis & Nutrient Management Planning
- Soil Husbandry
- Soil & Water Management
- Farm Infrastructure - Workshop
- Soil Restoration after Flooding – Workshop