



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2014 – March 2015

Catchment: Mimmshall Brook	CSFO: Sarah Asberry	
Target Area: 61,176 ha	Total Area: 61,176 ha	Total N° of Farms: 51

Reasons for designation

The Mimmshall Brook flows north from Barnet, joined by its tributaries, Clarehall Brook, Bently Heath Brook, Catherine Bourne, and Potters Bar Brook before entering a series of swallow holes near the parish of North Mimms. These waters feed the larger River Colne, which flows back south.

The primary diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA) pressures in this small catchment relate to pesticides, with metaldehyde of particular concern due to levels detected above the drinking water standard. The catchment lies within a Drinking Water Protected Area (DrWPA), surface water Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ), and encompasses a groundwater NVZ.

Priorities

- Reduce the impact of metaldehyde and other pesticides on drinking water

Objectives

- Encourage uptake of zero-metaldehyde pilot project on farms with designated high risk areas through 1:1 visits and advice
- Promote and encourage best practice when handling and applying pesticides
- Raise awareness of DWPA across the whole catchment through newsletters, events, and on-farm specialist advice
- Reduce leaching to ground water and run-off to surface waters through appropriate changes in land management
- To assist in achieving favourable status SSSI sites where possible
- To encourage the use of suitable resource protection options within Environmental Stewardship schemes.

Delivery

Advice will be delivered by the CSFO and contractors via events and one to one farm visits. CSF will support the MSG zero-metaldehyde pilot through 1:1 visits and mapping services. Machinery calibration, soil husbandry and nutrient planning services, farm infrastructure audits, and advice on pesticide use and handling best practice, will remain available throughout the catchment through CSF. The Capital

Grant Scheme will also be available to reduce DWPA where possible.

Targeting Map

