



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Triggering real change through workshops and farm visits

Bassenthwaite & Derwent Catchment (34)

CSFO: Susan Kenworthy

Farm Description

The Bassenthwaite catchment in Cumbria is part of the Lake District National Park. Large areas of the catchment are designated SSSI with Bassenthwaite Lake also a National Nature Reserve. In an ambitious program encompassing over 100 farms the CSFO built awareness of the project and triggered real change amongst farmers through a series of workshops and individual farm visits.

Pollution Problems

The CSFO linked the most severe pollution in the catchment to the River Greta which flows through the Derwent into Bassenthwaite Lake. The Water Framework Directive deems the River Greta 'probably at risk'. Its feeder rivers, the River Glenderamackin and St Johns Beck are both deemed 'at risk.' The main source of agricultural pollution is phosphate and sediment leaching into the water.



Pollution Solutions

1. CSF contractors advice on soil management and fertilizer use to all 43 farmers whose farms have some connectivity to these three rivers. So far, 70% of a sample group of farmers are acting on their recommendations to reduce soil erosion and phosphorous run-off.
2. As well as one-to-one consultation and advice, the CSFO coordinated workshops and discussion evenings to encourage engagement and troubleshoot problems.
3. The CSFO's work with farmers and partners resulted in the fencing off of over 12,000 metres of riverbank in the wider catchment, as bank erosion was seen as a major contributor of sediment pollution.

Farmer Engagement and Motivation

To date 94% of the farms in the target area have engaged with the initiative and 79% of the farms have had one-to-one advice on soil management. The CSFO found the ongoing work of The Bassethwaite Lake Restoration Programme made her job easier.

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