



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Capital Grants help protect shellfish in South Devon

Ilton Castle Farm, near Salcombe, South Devon

South Devon (a) Catchment (13)

CSFO: Lizbe Pilbeam

Farm Description

Ilton Castle Farm is a mixed 176 acre holding bordering important designated shellfish beds on the Salcombe Estuary.

Pollution Issues

E-coli contamination is a serious risk to the shellfish industry on the estuary, with major contributing factors including cattle defecating into streams and run-off from manure piles.

Pollution Solutions

The landowner was keen to utilise the Catchment Sensitive Farming Capital Grant Scheme (CGS) to reduce any pollution entering the unfenced streams on her holding. Using the CGS grant, the landowner fenced both sides of her stream, installed 2 culverts, constructed drinking bays and fenced the estuary boundary.



However, the landowner did not stop there. In addition (without grant help) she worked with the Rights of Way team and significantly improved a bridge over the stream. She reprofiled the ditches, erected new gates and guttering, redirected surface water to avoid the yard, and re-roofed a shed – all of which will make a huge difference to the water quality entering the estuary and the shellfish beds.



Culvert, cattle crossing, drinking point



New fencing controlling access to creek. Shellfish beds are in the creek which can be seen directly at the end of the watercourse



Newly guttered roof



New improved footpath bridge and stock excluded after farmer liaison with Public Rights of Way Dept

Farmer Engagement and Motivation

CGS acts as a spur to achieving better water quality, but the real success lies in the partnership between Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) and the farmers. In this case the landowner fully engaged with CSF but achieved so much more than was first thought possible.

The farmers' contributions to the project (often doing far more than we recommend, at their own financial and commitment cost) are what makes the initiative a success and showed the farmer's consideration for the shellfish industry that was being affected by pollutants from agriculture and the walkers who support the tourist market.

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