



# A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

## Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

**River Basin District: Humber      Catchment: Peak District Dales      Total Area: 655km<sup>2</sup>**

### Reasons for designation

The Nun Brook, Millers Dale, River Lathkill, River Dove and the Rivers Hamps and Manifold all form part of, or drain into, Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These SSSIs have been designated because of the range of habitats typical of Peak District limestone dales that they support. In addition the River Lathkill has supported a population of white-clawed freshwater crayfish, and may be used as an ark for their re-introduction. Nutrient enrichment caused by diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA) was the major concern in these areas but routine SSSI condition assessment in 2011 found that phosphate targets were mostly now being met, although there are still issues with sedimentation, mostly likely caused by yard runoff.

At the request of Severn Trent Water (STW) the catchment was extended to the west to address a number of DWPA problems. This area takes in the catchment of Tittesworth Reservoir and the areas around a number of boreholes which together supply the drinking water for Leek and Stoke on Trent.

### Priorities

Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface) – Tittesworth Reservoir

Drinking Water Protected Area (Ground) – Poolend, Highgate, Wallgrange and Abbey Farm Boreholes

SSSIs – Wye Valley, Lathkill Dale, Dove Valley & Biggin Dale, Hamps & Manifold Valleys

### Objectives

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- Improve the use of fertiliser, manure and slurry for increased nutrient use efficiency and reduced losses to watercourses.
- Influence farmer behaviour with regard to pesticide use and choice.

### Delivery

Nutrients / Total Solids

The Peak District Dales is a 100% livestock catchment with a very small area of arable crops grown for whole-cropping. Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) has carried out a large number of Nutrient Management Audits and little evidence has been found of over application of nutrients. The focus is now firmly on losses of nutrients from farm infrastructure, particularly where units have expanded stock numbers without the required investment in farm infrastructure.

Delivery will focus on training farmers on infrastructure through individual Farm Infrastructure Audits. Help will then be provided to find ways to fund the solutions recommended. It is anticipated that this will be predominantly through the CSF Capital Grant Scheme, but also through sign posting to other funding streams, such as DEFRA's Farming & Forestry Improvement Scheme (FFIS). This will be delivered through the Drop-In Centres at Bakewell and Leek livestock markets.

Pesticides

- Provide individual training on Pesticide Use, Planning and Agronomy to firstly, reduce the need for pesticide applications and secondly, to ensure farmers select the least environmentally damaging option if they have to use herbicides.
- Training farmers on how to apply pesticides safely for themselves and the environment.
- Promoting the use of the WeedSwiper bought by Seven Trent Water for farmers to use, thereby reducing the amount of herbicides used.

## Targeting Map

