



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: South East	Catchment: Isle of Wight
Total Area: 380km²	N° of Target Farms: 120

Reasons for designation

The Isle of Wight has a very diverse range of wetland habitats including rivers, streams, springs, coastal and floodplain grazing marshes, fens, reedbeds, ditches, ponds, swamps and bogs. The Island also supports some of the most important remaining Water Vole populations in the UK. The Isle of Wight Catchment includes some internationally protected SAC/SPA/Ramsar sites such as the South Wight Maritime SAC on the South West coast and the Solent Maritime SAC on the North coast and several SSSIs such as The Wilderness and Cridmore Bog on the River Medina, Alverstone Marshes on the Eastern Yar and Freshwater Marshes on the Western Yar. There are also numerous locally designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation covering wetland habitats.

Land use on the Island is varied, ranging from conservation grassland to intensive arable and horticultural cropping (indoor and outdoor). The underlying geology and soils are complex and range from clays in the North to chalk and greensand in the central and Southern regions of the Island. The key issues of concern within the catchment are Phosphate, Nitrate and Ammonia levels, pesticide pollution, sedimentation and over abstraction. These issues are often exacerbated when inappropriate land use occurs on a particularly susceptible soil type/topography.

As the Isle of Wight Catchment is so diverse in terms of its underlying geology, topography, range of habitats and land use it has been necessary to divide the catchment into 6 Sub-catchments to ensure that the issues are addressed appropriately. The 6 sub-catchments are:

1. Thorley Brook
2. North West Coast
3. South West Coast
4. Medina
5. Palmers Brook
6. Eastern Yar

Priorities

1. To reduce runoff and erosion causing sedimentation of watercourses particularly on areas at very high risk such as the steeply sloping sandy soils around the Eastern Yar valley and the soft greensand cliffs and chines along the South West Coast.
2. To encourage buffering and changes in land management and farm infrastructure to prevent Nitrate, Phosphorus and Pesticide pollution.
3. To reduce nitrogen and pesticide inputs on land around aquifers and groundwater protection zones to improve water quality.
4. To encourage rainwater harvesting to reduce the need for abstraction and ease the burden on the over abstracted watercourses.

Objectives

To encourage best practice through appropriate land management advice, and take up of Environmental Stewardship Schemes. Provide advice encouraging improvements to inefficient farm infrastructure through the CSF Capital Grant Scheme.

To raise awareness and improve understanding of the issues affecting this catchment, and how these may be resolved.

Delivery

1:1 visits to farmers to provide resource protection, Agri-environment and Capital Grant Scheme advice. This is available to the whole catchment with priority given to farmers within the target area.

Provide specialist farm infrastructure advice and encourage farmers to farmers apply for the Capital Grant Scheme where appropriate.

Arrange events maintain dedicated web pages and publish quarterly newsletters to raise awareness of resource protection issues and advertise the service.

Targeting Map

