

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: Anglian Catchment: Bure, Ant & Muckfleet Total Area: 927km²

Reasons for designation

The Catchment is subject to ground water extraction with a history of failing nitrate levels. The SSSIs - Bure Broads and Marshes and Ant Broads and Marshes, both contain units in unfavorable condition due to Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture (DWPA). Diffuse Water Pollution plans are in place and Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) targeting will help contribute to reducing DWPA in this area. The River Bure tributary water course, Scarrow Beck, is also targeted because it contributes to high levels of sediment and associated nutrients into the River Bure.

All sub-catchments targeted contain ground water source protection zones as identified by the Environment Agency.

Priorities

Drinking Water Protected Area (Groundwater) – Belaugh (issues with nitrates) and two further extraction ground water extraction points just East of Aylsham within the target area sub catchment

SSSIs Shallam Dyke Marshes, Thurne, Bure Broads and Marshes, Ant Broads and Marshes,

All the SSSIs have units failing due to DWPA and have Diffuse Water Pollution Plans in place.

Objectives

Work with local farmers to reduce the loss of sediment, and associated and soil-bound phosphate particles by providing practical soil and water management advice.

Delivery

Riparian Zone – Target farms with fields in the riparian zone of Bure Broads and Marshes will be targeted and offered soil and water management planning advice, calibration for fertiliser and slug pellet application machinery, and advice to address nutrient, metaldehyde and sediment associated with soil wash and runoff. This will help to address SSSI site units in 'unfavourable' condition due to DWPA. Riparian owners will also be targeted through Environmental Stewardship schemes including Entry Level Stewardship resource protection options and Higher Level Stewardship where appropriate.

Source Protection Zones within the catchment - Farms within the Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZ) for Belaugh ground water extraction site will be targeted and offered Soil and water management and machinery calibration for fertiliser and slug pellet application advice to address nutrient, metaldehyde and sediment associated with soil wash and run-off. Land owners may also be targeted through Environmental Stewardship and capital works under existing Countryside Stewardship where applicable.

Targeting Map

