



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: Humber
Catchment: East Riding of Yorkshire

Total Area: 1815 km²

Reasons for designation

The River Hull Headwaters Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is nationally important as the most northerly chalk river system in England. Kelk Beck forms the eastern arm of the SSSI and comprises 2 SSSI units which are failing to meet favourable condition largely because of siltation caused by diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA).

This DWPA arises from soil run-off from agricultural land, tracks and yards and it has a number of detrimental effects on the quality of the water. One of the most important is the build up of sediment on gravel beds which leads to the loss of fish breeding areas and habitat for other species that depend on clean river gravel.

In Kilham, at the upper reaches of the Kelk Beck catchment, sits a drinking water abstraction borehole. At present the raw water from the borehole is under investigation for increasing levels of nitrate, so failing the Drinking Water Protected Area objectives under the Water Framework Directive. Both the Drinking Water Protected Area and the non-statutory Safeguard Zone sit within the Kelk Beck catchment.

Priorities

- SSSI – River Hull Headwaters: Units 36 and 37
- Groundwater Drinking Water Protected Area/Safeguard Zone: Kilham Borehole

Objectives

- Reduce the loss of sediment through appropriate changes in land management such as excluding livestock from water courses.
- Encourage improvements to farm infrastructure such as separating clean and dirty water in yards and improving tracks.
- Reduce loss of nitrate through nutrient management planning and precision farming techniques.

Delivery

CSF will be carrying out the following work in this target area:

- Joint working with Natural England's Land Management Team to develop Higher Level Stewardship agreements on land adjacent to the SSSI.
- Events and Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer visits, to encourage one to one training on soil and nutrient management and farm infrastructure and also to encourage adoption of technologies such as precision farming.

