A clear solution for farmers
CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary
March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: Humber Catchment: River Nidd Total Area: 445km^2

Reasons for designation

The River Nidd has been identified in the River Basin Management Plan to be at risk from diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA). The river is in moderate ecological status due to heavy modification, including three major reservoirs. It fails on heavy metals (due to abandoned mines), phosphorous, diffuse sediments, and is at risk from alien species, pesticides, acidification and phosphate from agriculture.
A Catchment Appraisal prepared by Leeds University revealed that colour, sediment and phosphate are contributing to ecological failure in parts of the catchment.

Priorities

Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface) *Scar & Angram Reservoirs are at risk* because of colour - supplies of drinking water are frequently interrupted due to high levels.
SSSI Gouthwaite Reservoir is currently in favourable condition but status is threatened by non- native invasive species and sediment.
Tributaries: Fell Beck and Thornton Beck are in Good Ecological Status – the main river and other tributaries are all Moderate Status.
Darley Beck is a priority due to high levels of phosphate, nitrate & sediment.
Five target areas have been identified in the catchment using SCIMAP (sediment risk model).

Objectives

Reduce dissolved organic carbon/water colour and sediment by peat restoration works.
Reduce sediment and soil phosphate loss from agriculture by encouraging better soil management.
Encourage more effective grassland management and use of manures, fertilisers and pesticides.
Reduce the connectivity between land and surface water by infrastructure and track management.

Delivery

- Establish 2 farm-based demonstration sites in the project area and plan a third.
- Provide 9 relevant and informative events, clinics and workshops with specialist speakers and machinery.
- Recommend ways to reduce DWPA on farm by carrying out 1:1 farm visits, including 30 whole farm plans and 110 follow up visits, to produce infrastructure audits, nutrient and manure management plans.
- Produce 20 nutrient management plans with free soil analysis to encourage better use of nutrients.
- Work with the Yorkshire Peat Partnership to reduce colour in drinking water by restoring natural hydrology and areas of bare peat on moorland above the reservoirs.

- Produce a twice-yearly newsletter to inform and thank participation in the project.
- Secure good farmer engagement with the project by developing a partnership with the Yorkshire Dales Farmer Network.
- Agri-environment and Capital Grant Scheme advice to farmers within the catchment to encourage uptake of relevant options. Assistance with planning consent where necessary.

Targeting Map