



# A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

## Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2013 – March 2014

**River Basin District: Severn**

**Catchment: Somerset Frome**

**Total Area: 132km<sup>2</sup>**

### Reasons for designation

The Somerset Frome Catchment has consistently had high phosphate concentrations. Whilst 63% of the phosphate in the catchment is thought to come from other sources, 37% is widely attributed to agriculture. The catchment is largely made up of dairy farms. The catchment is failing water quality targets for phosphate, fish and ammonia. The bottom eastern part of the catchment is mostly in a surface water nitrate vulnerable zone (NVZ), and approximately half of this area is also in a groundwater NVZ. There is also groundwater safeguard zone partially covering the south east of the catchment. Sediment is an issue in the catchment due to associated phosphate. Most of the soil types found in the catchment are either at medium or high risk of runoff due to agricultural activities.

There are seven SSSI sites in the catchment but it widely accepted that none of these are in unfavourable condition due to agriculture.

### Priorities

Ground Water Safeguard Zone (South west and east of the catchment) – related to high ammonia and phosphate levels

### Objectives

- Reducing the quantity of dirty water arising from farms;
- Control the potential damage to soil and associated sediment run-off arising from trafficking by stock and vehicles;
- Limit the pathway for soil wash entering watercourses;
- Protect the watercourse by fencing to exclude livestock.

### Delivery

Delivery in the catchment will consist of a number of advice visits and training events for farmers.

Due to the ongoing issues with phosphates in the catchment, there will be access to one-to-one visits based on nutrient management plans, slurry and manure management plans, farm infrastructure and whole farm plan visits. There will also be soil and manure testing, soil husbandry and water management advice available to decrease the amount of runoff that ends up in watercourses. Group workshops will also be available in the catchment on infrastructure, soils and manures for farmers to attend.

The Capital Grant Scheme will be available in the catchment to farmers in the target area. The priority items for the Somerset Frome include roofing livestock areas and slurry stores which will reduce runoff before it reaches the river, as well as the resurfacing of gateways and fencing off watercourses from livestock.

## Targeting Map

