



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: Humber

Catchment: Lincolnshire Coast Rivers

Total Area: 2089 km²

Reasons for designation

The Grimsby Ancholme Louth Chalk groundwater body covers the northern chalk outcrop of Lincolnshire. It supports many forms of natural and artificial groundwater discharge including abstractions, spring flow, blow wells and river baseflow. This groundwater body has been classed as being of poor status for the Water Framework Directive (WFD) due to nitrate concentrations that show a significant and sustained upward trend. Two sources on the Humber bank currently have nitrate concentrations in the region of 120 mg/l against the UK Drinking Water Quality Standard of 50 mg/l.

There is a high risk of nitrates entering the groundwater from pig and poultry sites, composting sites, arable and livestock farms and landspreading across the catchment. The application of fertilisers and manures spread for agricultural benefit can significantly increase nutrient levels in the groundwater, which is used as a source of drinking water.

Priorities

Drinking Water Protected Area (groundwater) - The Grimsby Louth Chalk Ground Water Body
Groundwater Safeguard Zones - located at Barton, Barrow and Little Coates.

Objectives

- Encourage optimum nutrient management to reduce fertiliser inputs thereby minimising leaching to groundwater and run-off to surface waters;
- Establish a farmer focus group in partnership with Environment Agency and Anglian Water to look at ways of reducing leakage of nitrates into the catchment, including scoping a further nitrates profiling project;
- To encourage good soil management and the use of current and developing technologies e.g. precision farming to optimise nutrient management;

Delivery

Due to the predominately large scale arable nature of the farms located with the target area it has been decided to focus on offering an innovative events programme that builds on the previous programme and generates interest in Catchment Sensitive Farming and the Capital Grants Scheme. The 2011/12 events programme focused on Nutrient Management but the 2012/13 programme will focus on wider topics e.g. rainwater harvesting and pesticides management as well as nutrient management.

A modest number of one-to-one visits including Nutrient Management Plans, Soil Husbandry visits and Biobed & Pesticides Handling visits will be carried out where required.

Where the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer identifies livestock holdings that may benefit from help with, e.g. infrastructure planning but are located outside the target area, relevant one-to-one visits will be offered.

Targeting Map

