



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2012 – March 2014

River Basin District: Solway Tweed & Northumbria

Catchment: Tweed, Aln, Coquet and Coastal Streams Total Area: 2155km²

Reasons for designation

The diffuse pollution pressures are wide-ranging but primarily include: sediment, phosphate, Faecal Indicator Organisms (FIO's), nitrates, pesticides and SSSI failures. The SSSI failures relate to the River Coquet, Tweed Catchment Rivers and Lindisfarne.

River Coquet SSSI fails in units 1-7 on DWP, including elevated phosphate levels and macrophyte issues which may be indicative of eutrophication.

The main SSSI failure on the Tweed Catchment Rivers is attributed to elevated phosphate levels.

Lindisfarne SSSI is failing due to DWP related enteromorpha.

Priorities

- Drinking Water Protected Area (Groundwater) – Water Company abstraction at Berwick (Tweed)
- Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface water) – Water Company abstraction at Warkworth (Coquet)
- SSSI/SAC – Till, Lindisfarne and Coquet
- Good Ecological Status – Belford Burn, Waren Burn, Long Nanny and Aln
- BAP Species (White Clawed Crayfish) – Aln

Objectives

- Reduce the loss of sediment and associated soil-bound phosphate particles through appropriate changes in land management.
- Improve clean and dirty water separation through infrastructure improvements.
- Reduce connectivity between the land and surface water, through promotion of track and riparian zone management.
- Reduce inputs of fertilizer to reduce leaching to groundwater and run-off to surface waters
- Improve timing of livestock manure applications.

Delivery

Riparian Zone - farms with fields in the riparian zone will be targeted and offered soil, infrastructure and nutrient planning services to address nutrients and sediment loss associated with soil wash and run-off, and to assess and address SSSI sites in 'Unfavourable' condition. Riparian owners will also be targeted through Environmental Stewardship (ELS/UELS and HLS and capital works if appropriate and funds are available).

Existing engagement - farms will have follow up visits to assess how far advice previously given has been adopted and to offer further advice as necessary to deliver further significant benefits.

New engagement – farms will be offered nutrient, soil, and infrastructure planning services.

Targeting Map

