

2014/15 Capital Grants: Natura 2000 (N2K) Targeting Plan

River Basin District Plans outlining the proposed targeting approach to Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Capital Grants in 2014/15.



River Basin District	South Anglian	Plan prepared	10 Jan 2014
<p>Natura 2000 Catchments covered by this plan</p>	<p>Waveney - CSF Catchment 4b, Blyth and surrounding SSSIs - CSF Catchment 45 and Lower Great Ouse - CSF Catchment 63</p> <p>All target areas and capital item lists must meet all three of these criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They benefit a water-dependent N2K catchment to help achieve objectives set in the first cycle of River Basin Management Plans by 2015. • They help meet an environmental remedy which has not been started or not fully implemented. • Items are shown to be potentially effective (using CSF Evidence Effectiveness data). <p>We chose all 3 catchments because they are all linked to N2K sites /units within them which are failing for Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture (DWPA) and the actions in this plan will help address the environmental remedies and have been supported by stakeholders in the compilation of this plan.</p>	<p>Natura 2000 sites covered by this plan</p>	<p>Waveney - CSF catchment 4b includes parts of the Broads Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and part of the Broadland Special Protection Area (SPA) and some of the SSSIs below have RAMSAR designations, others are local nature reserves and all are in the 'Broads Environmentally Sensitive Area' – the Waveney catchment contains SSSIs with unfavourable units due to DWPA: Sprat's Water and Marshes, Carlton Colville Stanley and Alder Carrs, Aldeby & Geldeston Meadows</p> <p>Such meadows are in a floodplain so the water quality of flood waters affects their condition.</p> <p>Blyth and surrounding SSSIs - CSF Catchment 45 includes Minsmere to Walberswick Heaths and Marshes SAC & SPA which is also contains a RAMSAR Site, RSPB Reserve, National Nature Reserve, with unfavourable units due to DWPA:</p> <p>Lower Great Ouse - CSF Catchment 63 includes Portholme Meadow SAC and Ouse Washes SAC & SPA which is also a local Wildlife Trust Reserve, RAMSAR Site, RSPB Reserve and a Wildfowl And Wetlands Trust Reserve. Such meadows are in a floodplain so the water quality of flood waters affects their condition.</p>

Catchment Waveney (4b)

<p>Catchment where grants will be offered</p>	<p>Waveney (4b)</p>
<p>Rationale for offering grant</p>	<p>Catchment reasons for CSF designation include: The three SSSIs, parts of the Waveney SAC /Natura 2000 site listed above have units in an unfavorable condition; suspected due to DWPA with phosphates attached to sediment with water-soluble nitrates. We are seeking further evidence to demonstrate this.</p> <p>N2K priorities: SSSIs listed are all part of a N2K SAC: A major part of the Waveney catchment is upstream, and affected by diffuse water pollution from phosphate, nitrate and sediment due to river connectivity and winter flooding which affects Geldeston Meadows, Sprat’s Water, Stanley and Alder Carrs. There is also watercourse connectivity, carrying pollutants, to these sites from the sub catchments in which these sites are situated. Evidence used – ENSIS, Diffuse Water Pollution plan, relevant GIS datasets and the CSF Capital Grant Scheme Funding Priority Statement for the catchment for 2013/14.</p> <p>At Geldeston Meadows:</p> <div data-bbox="465 842 2130 965" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Notified Features include 6 individual bird species and 70 breeding bird species, 90 wintering bird species and 150 passage bird species. Lowland ditch systems</p> </div> <p>At Sprat’s Water:</p> <div data-bbox="465 1050 2130 1209" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Notified features include 6 individual bird species and 70 breeding bird species, 90 wintering bird species and 150 passage bird species. Assemblages of breeding birds on lowland open waters and their margins Vascular Plant Assemblage</p> </div> <p>Stanley and Alder Carrs:</p> <div data-bbox="465 1294 2130 1417" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Notified features include 6 individual bird species and 70 breeding bird species, 90 wintering bird species and 150 passage bird species. Otter</p> </div>

	Vascular Plan Assemblage
Description of theme	<p>What pollutants and farming practices are being targeted and how does this link to remedies? Sediments, phosphates and nitrogen compounds. Intensive livestock units, and organic manure importers giving rise to storage and application of organic manures issues, Farmyard /farm infrastructure where dirty water containment and application is an issue, by pass flow from field drainage of ammonium, phosphates and sediment. Sediment and phosphate run off from field tramlines.</p> <p>Reduce diffuse pollution of N2K units failing due to diffuse water pollution from agriculture, soil and manure run off from agricultural fields and loss of excess nitrates, ammonium and phosphates causing eutrophication of watercourses, loss of habitat diversity and notified species in affected N2K units.</p>
Area / holdings to be targeted	<p>The N2K target area will comprise both the current Waveney Phase 3 CGS target areas A and B – all having connectivity to the listed N2K Units. The area is some 78,370 hectares in which a proportion of the 927 holdings within the catchment have significant livestock numbers in the target area. Most of the issues to be addressed will be for the most part targeted at farms with significant livestock numbers. As the area has all been targeted previously with many of the grant priority options listed in the next section, it is not expected that there will be a large increase in the number of applications. The extra options and N2K CGS promotion might increase the number of applications by some 20% to 55, of which 70-80% would include application for N2K options listed below. The proportion of the 55 expected applications are allocated to the normal CSF grant scheme depends on the scoring criteria.</p> <p>Livestock farms will be targeted within the Water Framework Directive (WFD) management sub catchments.</p> <p>These will be prioritised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holdings that have direct connectivity to the N2K site. Therefore items will positively impact water quality into the N2K site reducing sediment ingress. 2. Holdings identified by the CSF effectiveness data where CSF is most effective to address sediment loss 3. Where previously received CSF technical advice and recommendations support CGS items to address the N2K failure 4. Where there is an existing Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement and consultation with HLS advisers and Responsible Officers shows CGS could address a DWPA issue that to the benefit of the N2K site. <p>It is expected that 40 livestock farms in the Waveney may apply for a CSF N2K grant as a consequence of such discussions of the CSFO with individual farmers in the catchment in 2014/15.</p>

<p>CSF Capital Grant Scheme (CGS) items to be deployed</p>	<p>The following items were chosen as when used and sited in relevant positions they will reduce sediments, phosphates and nutrients entering watercourses with connectivity to the affected sites.</p> <p>CSF001 Relocation of gates and associated works to prevent run off leaving fields and entering Natura sites or connected watercourses</p> <p>CSF003 Watercourse fencing to reduce poaching/livestock contaminating watercourses</p> <p>CSF011 Cross drains on farm tracks to reduce sediment run off from farm tracks and gateways</p> <p>CSF012 Sediment traps: to trap sediments before entering watercourses or running onto SSSI units</p> <p>CSF013 Swales and check dams to trap sediments before entering watercourses or running onto SSSI units</p> <p>CSF016 Resurfacing of gateways to reduce sediment run off from farm tracks and gateways</p> <p>CSF014 Yard works for clean and dirty water separation to reduce loss of dirty water and minimise volumes/risk to water courses</p> <p>CSF015 Installation of culverts in ditches to improve ditch management , reduce sediment creation</p> <p>CSF021 Livestock and machinery tracks to reduce sediment in run off</p> <p>CSF023 Roofing of manure storage to reduce dirty water runoff and volumes</p> <p>CSF024 Watercourse crossings to reduce sediment disturbance/watercourse contamination</p> <p>CSF026 Roofs for slurry and silage stores to reduce dirty water runoff and volumes</p> <p>Standard Items for special projects may include reed bed creation and sustainable drainage systems to reduce sediments and nutrients entering the SSSI/ N2K site and/or connecting and/or watercourses or temporary/seasonal electric fencing of watercourses. There may also be need for other non-standard items, which will be considered on a case by case basis.</p>

River Blyth and surrounding SSSIs (45)

<p>Catchment where grants will be offered</p>	<p>River Blyth and surrounding SSSIs (45)</p>
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<p>Rationale for offering grant</p>	<p>The Blyth catchment was designated as a CSF priority catchment in October 2008 when Phase 2 of the CSF initiative began. Water quality issues within the catchment include elevated nitrates and phosphates in surface waters, localised sedimentation problems and high nitrates in groundwater.</p> <p>Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths And Marshes Natura 2000 (N2K) has unfavourable units due to evidence of soil run off from adjacent areas and pollution of watercourses connected to the N2K site.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="470 376 2141 699"> <tr> <td>Notified features include 6 individual bird species and 70 breeding bird species, 90 wintering bird species and 150 passage bird species.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assemblages of breeding birds - lowland damp grasslands</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Invertebrate Assemblage</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowland ditch systems</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Population of Schedule 8 plant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vascular Plant Assemblage</td> </tr> </table>	Notified features include 6 individual bird species and 70 breeding bird species, 90 wintering bird species and 150 passage bird species.	Assemblages of breeding birds - lowland damp grasslands	Invertebrate Assemblage	Lowland ditch systems	Population of Schedule 8 plant	Vascular Plant Assemblage
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<p>Description of theme</p>	<p>Sediments, phosphates, and nitrogen compounds (ammonium, nitrite and nitrate) are issues because some units are heathland and these nutrients change the plant communities present.</p> <p>Outdoor pigs, row and root crops, un-cropped land, intensive livestock units, storage and application of organic manures, ditch and watercourse management.</p> <p>To stop diffuse pollution of N2K units failing due to diffuse water pollution from agriculture; with additional windblown soil and run off carry excess nitrate, ammonium and phosphates causing eutrophication of watercourses and increased soil fertility in N2K areas, resulting in loss of habitat diversity and reduced populations of notified species in affected N2K units.</p>						
<p>Area / holdings to be targeted</p>	<p>Farming sectors to be offered grants include: Outdoor pigs, horticultural row and agricultural root crops, those with un-cropped land. Intensive livestock units, or who store and apply organic manures, or who require ditch and watercourse management.</p> <p>The size of the N2K target is some 29,785 hectares (with connectivity to Walberswick and Minsmere SSSI) of which some 23,497 hectares been targeted for the CGS through Phase 3. Whilst added N2K priority options and N2K CGS promotion in the Phase 3 target area might increase the number of applications the extra numbers is not expected to be great. There will be applications</p>						

	<p>from holdings not previously targeted; including those who have previously put in unsuccessful special project applications.</p> <p>Livestock farms will be targeted within the WFD management sub catchments. These will be prioritised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holdings that have direct connectivity to the N2K site: therefore items will positively impact water quality into the N2k site reducing sediment ingress. 2. Holdings identified by the CSF effectiveness data where CSF is most effective to address sediment loss 3. Where previously received CSF technical advice and recommendations support CGS items to address the N2K failure 4. Where there is an existing HLS agreement and consultation with HLS advisers and Responsible Officers shows CGS could address a DWPA issue that to the benefit of the N2K site. 																						
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Lower Great Ouse - CSF Catchment 63

<p>Catchment where grants will be offered</p>	<p>Lower Great Ouse - CSF Catchment 63</p>				
<p>Rationale for offering grant</p>	<p>Overall reasons for offering grant in this catchment is because it has been a CSF catchment with advice delivery to farmers since 27 February 2012 to help remedy (of adverse reason) for these N2K sites which include water pollution - agriculture/run off which includes siltation. This catchment has multiple agricultural pressures and the N2K sites are a priority because the Ouse Washes site is one of the country's few remaining areas of extensive wash land habitat. It is of particular note for the large numbers of wildlife and waders which supports: for the large area of unimproved neutral grassland communities which it holds and for the richness of the aquatic fauna and flora within the associated watercourse. The capacity of the site to hold wintering and breeding waterfowl and waders is of international significance. Of particular note in the winter are the large number of teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), pintail (<i>Annas acuta</i>), wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>), shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>), pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>) and Berwick's Swan (<i>Cygnus Bewickii</i>).</p> <p>The site covers 2513.55 hectares (22 April 1998) comprising: a local Wildlife Trust Reserve, RAMSAR Site, RSPB Reserve, Special Area Of Conservation, Special Protection Area, Nature Conservation Review and a Wildfowl And Wetlands Trust Reserve.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="470 794 1962 983"> <tr> <td>Notified features include 17 individual bird species and 70 breeding bird species and 90 wintering bird species</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assemblages of breeding birds - lowland damp grasslands</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowland ditch systems</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vascular Plant Assemblage</td> </tr> </table> <p>Portholme N2K area holds grassland communities of the alluvial flood meadow type. Such meadows are in a floodplain so the water quality of flood waters affects their condition. Portholme represents one of the largest areas of this grassland type in the country which continues to be managed on traditional lines as a 'lammas' meadow. Watercourses on the periphery of the site have populations of some uncommon invertebrates, including one dragonfly which is of a nationally restricted distribution. The meadow is surrounded by channels of the River Ouse, and the Alconbury Brook is close by. These water bodies are important for dragonflies (Odonata) in particular the restricted dragonfly <i>Libellula fulva</i>. In the winter and early spring Portholme is inundated by floodwaters. This provides natural fertilising of the soil and it is this seasonal flooding coupled with the traditional management that maintains the diversity of the natural plant communities.</p> <p>The site covers 105.71 hectares (12 July 1996) comprising: Special Area Of Conservation and a Nature Conservation Reserve.</p>	Notified features include 17 individual bird species and 70 breeding bird species and 90 wintering bird species	Assemblages of breeding birds - lowland damp grasslands	Lowland ditch systems	Vascular Plant Assemblage
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Description of theme	<p>Phosphate and sediment pollution and farming practices are being targeted which will –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce preventable nutrient, or sediment losses from agricultural holdings; • Separate clean and dirty water in yards; • Reduce dirty water entry to watercourses via farm tracks, and control soil damage due to machinery or livestock movements; • Reduce rainwater entering slurry, manure and silage stores. 								
Area / holdings to be targeted	<p>Any size of livestock holdings/ farm yards linked to grassland and arable manure / sewage sludge users who store and spread these materials and ideally arable farms over 50 hectares particularly where sloping ground creates runoff / erosion and sheet wash from fields or tracks; to water courses or roads or SSSI land and within the geographic area to be targeted of the Lower Great Ouse catchment and within 10 mile radius of Earith (the entry point to the Ouse Washes) or 10 miles upstream/ radius of Portholme Meadow.</p> <p>These will be prioritised as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holdings that have direct connectivity to the N2K site: where items will positively impact water quality into the N2k site reducing sediment ingress 2. Holdings identified by the CSF effectiveness data where CSF is most effective to address sediment loss 3. Where previously received CSF technical advice and recommendations support CGS items to address the N2K failure 4. Where there is an existing HLS agreement and consultation with HLS advisers and Responsible Officers shows CGS could address a DWPA issue that to the benefit of the N2K site. 								
CSF Capital Grant Scheme (CGS) items to be deployed	<p>The following priority capital items will assist in delivering these aims and will be favoured in the grant application process (not listed in order of priority) and any relevant special projects designed to reduce sediment or phosphate from non-mobile items:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; padding-right: 20px;">CSF001</td> <td>Relocation of gates and associated gapping up to prevent run off leaving fields and entering SSSIs or connected watercourses</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; padding-right: 20px;">CSF002</td> <td>Water gates to prevent livestock moving along watercourses and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; padding-right: 20px;">CSF003</td> <td>Water course fencing to prevent livestock moving in to watercourses and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; padding-right: 20px;">CSF004</td> <td>Fencing for buffer strips, marshes, wet grassland, wet woodland, ponds to prevent livestock moving in to</td> </tr> </table>	CSF001	Relocation of gates and associated gapping up to prevent run off leaving fields and entering SSSIs or connected watercourses	CSF002	Water gates to prevent livestock moving along watercourses and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses	CSF003	Water course fencing to prevent livestock moving in to watercourses and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses	CSF004	Fencing for buffer strips, marshes, wet grassland, wet woodland, ponds to prevent livestock moving in to
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CSF005	Solar powered electric fence kits for seasonal fencing: to prevent livestock moving in to watercourses/ wetland and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses
CSF006	Livestock drinking bays to prevent livestock moving in to watercourses and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses
CSF007	Livestock drinkers and feeders with hard bases to prevent livestock moving in to watercourses and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses
CSF008	Pasture pumps and associated pipe work to prevent livestock moving in to watercourses and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses
CSF009	Ram pumps and associated pipe work to prevent livestock moving in to watercourses and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses
CSF010	Livestock troughs with associated pipe work (as an alternative to livestock drinking from watercourses) to prevent livestock moving in to watercourses and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses
CSF011	Cross drains under farm tracks to reduce sediment run off from farm tracks and gateways
CSF012	Sediment ponds and traps to trap sediments before entering watercourses or running onto SSSI units.
CSF013	Swales with check dams to trap sediments before entering watercourses or running onto SSSI units
CSF014	Yard works for clean and dirty water separation to reduce loss of dirty water and minimise volumes/risk to water courses.
CSF015	Installation of culverts in ditches to prevent livestock or machinery moving into or across watercourses and causing additional sediment or additional phosphate which may enter SSSIs or connected watercourses
CSF016	Resurfacing gateways to reduce sediment run off from farm tracks and gateways
CSF021	Cattle tracks/farm access to reduce sediment in run off
CSF023	Roofing of manure storage and stock gathering areas to reduce dirty water runoff and volumes
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