



# A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

## Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2012 – March 2015

<b>Catchment: Upper Cherwell (54)</b>	<b>CSFO: Andrew Russell</b>	
<b>Target Area: 16268 Ha</b>	<b>Total Area: 16268 Ha</b>	<b>Target N° of Farms: 80</b>

### Reasons for designation

This predominantly arable catchment comprises of steep sloping fields on heavy clay soils that are both mole ploughed and underdrained, resulting in a fast flow from field to water body.

Applications of crop protection products are extremely sensitive hence timing, rates and ground conditions are critical to prevent field losses, both from product efficacy and environmental protection perspectives.

Pesticide levels in the catchment exceed the drinking water standard of 0.1µg/l (Herbicides specifically are Carbetamide & Propyzamide, and molluscicide Metaldehyde).

The concentration of Nitrate & Phosphate occasionally exceeds the statutory limit of 50mg/l.

### Priorities

Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface) – River Cherwell (Cropredy to Nell Bridge)

DRWPA ref GB106039037310

SGZ – Chacombe, Highfurlong, Ashby, Clayton & Wormleighton brooks.

Each sub catchment within the target area trends frequently exceeds limits of pesticide concentration as crops rotate within the catchment area. High phosphorus concentrations are a problem in 42% of the catchment.

### Objectives

Reduce the loss of sediment, and associated and soil-bound nitrate through appropriate changes in land management.

Reduce the levels of Carbetamide, Propyzamide, and Metaldehyde at sub catchment level.

Reduce connectivity between the land and surface water, through promotion of resource protection options available in Environmental Stewardship.

Reduce inputs of organic and inorganic fertilizer to reduce nutrient run-off to surface waters.

### Delivery

**Riparian Zone** - Farms with fields in the riparian zone and surrounding steep sloping high risk land will be targeted and offered Soil and Nutrient Planning Services to address nutrients and sediment associated with soil wash and run-off, with advice on implementing resource protection options delivered through Environmental Stewardship.

**Safeguard Zone** - All sub catchments included due to the mobile nature of the pesticide loadings and will receive a combination of targeted 1:1 advice and best practice events.

**Best practice & field trials** – Use of field trials for alternative products will continue & be carried out in conjunction with other manufacturers programmes aimed at earlier application timings for some of the targeted active herbicides to reduce field losses during winter rainfall.

Field trials will focus on establishing a range of spring crops in order to both reduce winter losses of target chemicals but also investigate & report on improvements in black grass control and widening of the arable rotation. Establishment trials will be used to promote best practice and inform farmers of alternative products and crop management during a number of farm walks & events.

Delivery will also include practical training on slug pellet application training and machinery calibration.

## Target map

