



# A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

## Higher Level Scheme Enhanced by CSF

Evershot Farms

### River Piddle, River Frome & Fleet Lagoon (20)

CSFO: Charlotte Woodford

Evershot Farms in Dorset holds some of the most significant and varied wildlife habitats in England. One of the primary drivers for expanding some of the existing Countryside Stewardship Schemes on this estate into a more comprehensive HLS was the opportunity to buffer and generally safeguard adjacent aquatic habitats from diffuse water pollution from agriculture (never an objective of classic schemes).

The Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers (CSFOs) were on hand to offer advice on the placement and management of Environmental Stewardship options with specialist dairy infrastructure advice provided in other areas of the estate that complemented Natural England's efforts.



View of the stunning Fleet Lagoon SAC – Embayment to the right is currently in “unfavourable condition”

### Situation

Evershot Farms own significant amounts of land within the Frome River Catchment and most of the land surrounding the West of the Fleet Lagoon SAC. Resource Protection is an important HLS objective in the Frome and Fleet catchments due to the SSSI status of these water bodies which had been in “unfavourable” condition partly due to elevated levels of phosphate and sediments from agriculture.



The review of farm infrastructure was important to maximise the HLS benefit.

## Solutions - The Rest of Evershot Farms

Throughout the estate, HLS options have been deployed to protect adjacent sensitive waterbodies. However within the estate there are a series of livestock and manure handling facilities that had the potential to produce pollution thereby possibly undoing the good work achieved through HLS. Natural England HLS Officers stipulated that a review of buildings had to be carried out to ensure that they met best practice standards. The CSFO arranged to conduct the survey with an appropriate contractor and thus ensured that the HLS agreement could go ahead.

The management team at the Evershot Estate have also been adamant supporters of CSF in the South West catchments, supporting the project steering group and providing demonstration sites.

Generally CSFOs are able to become knowledgeable about their catchments, farming sectors and specific issues leading to diffuse water pollution from agriculture. They are then able to work with Natural England HLS Officers to achieve stewardship agreements with farmers that protect every aspect of the surrounding environment and work well with the farming system used by the farmer.

## Solutions – The River Fleet

CSFOs were involved in the prioritising and placement of Resource Protection (RP) options adjacent to the Fleet which relied on the CSFO being knowledgeable about the area, soils, cropping and topography in order to make the most of this opportunity. As a result of the CSFO/ HLS officer/farmer co-operation, most of the West Fleet is now buffered from agricultural pollution and the SAC has now been classified as “recovering”.

Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO)

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