

# Catchment Sensitive Farming

South West River Basin District Strategy 2016 to 2021



**A clear solution  
for farmers**

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

September 2016

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## Section 1: overview

### 1.1 Introduction, aims and objectives of CSF

This document outlines the proposals for Phase 4 of Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) work in South West River Basin District between 2016 and 2021. It describes the outline evidence of the water quality issues, the mechanisms and measures CSF will deliver and the resources we will use to support and achieve our objectives and underpin partnership and liaison arrangements.

The CSF programme helps farmers take action to address agricultural diffuse water pollution using advice and incentives. Since 2006 CSF has been working in specific Priority Catchments where agriculture is having the most significant impact on rivers, lakes and estuaries. Programme evaluation has demonstrated the effectiveness of CSF's approach in reducing pollutant loads and improving water quality. CSF Phase 4 builds on this previous work and brings several new features which improve the effectiveness of the programme at addressing diffuse water pollution working with a wide range of partners.

The key features of the approach are as follows:

- The basic unit of CSF delivery is the Water Framework Directive Water Management Catchment. Within each catchment are areas defined as a high priority for water quality for the Countryside Stewardship scheme. These are the priority areas for CSF, which are termed here Water Priority Areas (WPA).
- CSF will mainly be working in the Water Priority Areas. We will look for partnership opportunities to increase the intensity of our work in these areas and to extend the approach to other areas.
- CSF deploys measures to address water quality objectives for Protected Areas (Natura 2000 sites, Bathing Water, Shellfish Waters and Drinking Waters) and Good Ecological Status of lakes failing diffuse water pollution from agriculture.
- The incentives element of CSF will be provided through Countryside Stewardship (CS)(which now incorporates the CSF Grants Scheme), using mainly the Mid-Tier with Higher Tier where there are opportunities to do so. Water capital items are available, as part of the Mid-Tier process or with land management options in Mid-Tier and Higher Tier.
- We will provide advice through direct delivery by CSF Officers and contracted through the Farm Advice Framework (FAF).
- We will be as clear as possible over what we can achieve in terms of environmental outcomes. We will then assess our progress and continue to evaluate CSF alongside the water elements of Countryside Stewardship.

- We will develop partnerships with a wide range of organisations, including Natural England (NE), the Environment Agency (EA) and Forestry Commission (FC), where we have shared objectives. Some of this partnership work may be outside Water Priority Areas where funding allows.
- We will maximise the gains of CSF work beyond water quality, including farm business benefits and resilience to hazard and ecosystem services including flood mitigation, climate change adaptation, fisheries, and land biodiversity.
- Where opportunities allow, we will develop pilots to test new ways of working and to assist in the transfer of research finding to widespread practical application. Opportunities will be sought to integrate piloting work into the wider work described in this document.
- This plan is underpinned by a series of local, catchment-level plans which describe in detail the approach along with the underpinning evidence base.

## 1.2 Evidence

### Overview

The Water Priority Areas have been developed to target both Countryside Stewardship and CSF using a range of evidence. Water Priority Areas represent the places where diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA) is a significant water quality issue and where CS and CSF can be most effective to help achieve Water Framework Directive (WFD) outcomes. A range of evidence has been layered to create a thorough understanding of each Water Priority Area in each water management catchment, including DWPA pressures, farm types, soil and rainfall.

From this the Environment Agency CSF Evidence Team has developed a prioritisation to focus advice and some specific Countryside Stewardship grant funding to priority farm holdings, where the evidence suggests most WFD outcomes could be achieved. Local knowledge and ground-truthing in the River Basin District (RBD) will be part of the process and where local initiatives occur, then these can form part of CSF delivery.

Please refer to Section 2.1 for more detail.

The South West River Basin Management Plan can be viewed at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015>

[Environment Agency catchment planning data explorer](#) provides evidence on pollution pressures and reasons for not achieving WFD objectives.

## 1.3 Delivery Approach and Mechanisms

### Overview

- A number of factors have shaped the approach to CSF Phase 4:
- The implementation of Countryside Stewardship and associated targeting changes.
- River Basin Planning priorities.
- Evidence from previous CSF evaluations
- Opportunities for closer working with a range of partners and Defra colleagues to achieve common goals.

Phase 4 of CSF gives us the opportunity to optimise our delivery and build on the expertise gained over the last 10 years, which will improve outcome delivery for water quality and other ecosystem services along with economic benefits for farmers and the wider economy.

Our approach will be outcome-based, working with stakeholders and Defra colleagues to provide national and locally derived benefits over the next five years. The CSF evaluation shows the outcome benefits of working for a long period (4+years) in a catchment to drive the uptake of measures. The revised targeting means that in a small number of cases we will be reducing the area in which CSF works. In these cases we will work with partners to develop a 'legacy' approach.

All Water Priority Areas are of equal priority. This means that no Protected Areas or Good Ecological Status (GES) have a higher priority over another. Most CSF work will be in Water Priority Areas, although there will be cases where we put resources elsewhere including water measures in biodiversity-led Higher Tier CS agreements and some partnerships.

The overall CSF approach will be to work with farmers who will benefit the most from the measures and mechanism to reduce DWPA (termed Priority Farms). In all cases we will be clear why we are working with specific farmers. One to one advice will be provided to prioritised farmers to support the uptake of Countryside Stewardship and to help farmers to adopt measures to improve farm businesses and the environment. In Water Priority Areas outside Priority Farms, emphasis will be on providing general advice on Countryside Stewardship and land management for water through a variety of mechanisms including group events, newsletters and training to advisers.

Up to 20% of the overall CSF resource can be dedicated to local campaigns and priorities that address specific catchment issues in the Water Priority Areas. This approach could bring together farms referred by Environment Agency and

Natural England, local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) knowledge and scattered Priority Farms to form a more meaningful campaign area where CSF can support water quality improvement.

CSF staffing will be determined initially on the number of Priority Farms in an area. The implication of this is that CSFOs or partners may cover more than one catchment (See Section 2.2 for more details).

In our first year of delivery (2016/17), the focus will be on setting the new direction of the strategy and working with partners and Defra colleagues to help develop a more detailed programme for the next five years. This will include ground-truthing the Priority Farms in light of previous CSF work and any other changes of circumstances that may mean the farm is no longer a priority (e.g. change of business). In addition, there will be work to sequence engagement of the priority farms over the 5 years of Phase 4.

We will be piloting new approaches to link our water quality advice to the wider environment, specifically building on our engagement with farmers to help positively influence farm wildlife, woodland creation, climate change mitigation, air pollution and flood risk through Mid and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship.

CSF is a collaboration between Defra, Environment Agency and Natural England and partnership working is embedded across the programme. This way of working crosses national, area and local teams to deliver our shared outcomes.

## **CSF Partnerships**

CSF seeks opportunities to work with external partners at national, regional and local level to enhance delivery of shared WFD outcomes. CSF partnership working integrates planning; improves delivery of WFD and synergies; ensures join up with partners; avoids duplication; pools resources, information and expertise and adds value to CSF and our objectives.

CSF partnerships include both formal and informal arrangements. Resources for partnerships will be prioritised according to those that best align with CSF outcome delivery. CSF will seek opportunities for sponsorship, funding bids with partners, co-funded partnership projects and no-cost partnerships.

Key CSF partners include (but not exclusively):

- Farmers and farming associations
- Government bodies: Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB)
- Water companies

- Farm advisers and companies - agronomists, farm advisers, vets, machinery/ input distributors, land agents
- Local Authorities, National Parks, Areas of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB) and Regional Parks
- Environmental organisations such as Rivers Trusts, Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trust, Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE)
- Catchment Based Approach partnerships
- Food and drink industry
- Internal drainage boards

### **Partnerships and Water Company Working**

In most parts of the country, CSF will be working alongside existing catchment projects that involve working with farmers. The number of these projects has increased recently following investments by Water Companies, some of which are delivered in partnership with CSF. In all cases we will seek to ensure water quality messages are co-ordinated across the projects to ensure consistency for farmers and land managers. Opportunities for co-working (sharing events for example) will be taken wherever possible. The following describes how we will work with these projects in different situations:

**Project completely outside a Water Priority Area:** there will be no overlap with where CSF will be working. CSF will provide advice and assistance where possible to help co-ordinate messages. CSF will help develop the skills of officers working on the project to help them advise on Countryside Stewardship.

**Project overlaps with a Water Priority Area:** CSF will seek to engage in the early planning of such work where possible to help co-ordinate visits to farms and avoid multiple visits. In addition, where possible, opportunities will be sought for partners in the Countryside Stewardship high water quality priority area to signpost potential Mid-Tier applications to CSF. Joint activities will be held wherever possible. Where a project has differing objectives and/or priorities from CSF we will work across the water priority area, but there will be less reliance on the project to deliver CSF objectives, including Countryside Stewardship work.

Precise working arrangements will be decided locally.

### **The South West River Basin District Delivery & Mechanisms Overview**

The South West is typically a very rural and agricultural area. Agriculture is dominated by dairy and livestock enterprises in the west, with a higher proportion of arable

and mixed farming further east in the region. Furthermore, there are scattered horticultural businesses throughout, particularly in Cornwall. A number of Anaerobic Digestion (AD) plants have been established in recent years which, it is believed, has led to an increase in maize growing in the region. CSF prioritises a broad range of protected areas impacted by water quality, including important designated Bathing Waters given the coastal nature of the landscape and significance of tourism, as well as Shellfish Waters, Natura 2000 and SSSI sites and Drinking Water safeguard zones. In addition, a large number of water bodies failing WFD GES status are targeted. In the South West, CSFOs in Natural England work with farmers in targeted areas to reduce DWPA. They also work with partners and stakeholders and other colleagues to help achieve water quality improvements as below.

CSF will work with the following **individuals and organisations**:

- NE Area Teams – CSF is represented in all the area plans and our objectives contribute towards outcomes in 'focus areas' as appropriate. The South West RBD currently includes three area teams: Somerset, Avon and Wiltshire (11), Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (12) and Dorset and Hampshire (13). Finalised Area Plans have yet to be published and NE area teams will be aligning with Environment Agency area teams. We will work closely with our area team colleagues, ensuring joint understanding of local diffuse pollution issues and resource protection needs. We will work together in Countryside Stewardship to deliver DWPA reductions and wider benefits.
- NE Water Specialists embedded within the area teams – River Basin Coordinators (RBCs) and CSFOs will continue effective join up and regular communication with the water specialists through the area team water networks as well as on a one to one basis, in particular on protected areas impacted by water quality and influencing of water companies.
- We will work with the Environment Agency, specifically with Catchment Coordinators and individuals from Environment Management teams (Environment Officers), and Reporting and Analysis, Integrated Environment Planning, Fisheries and Biodiversity and Flood and Coastal Risk Management teams where relevant.
- We will work with the local water companies across the South West RBD to continue effective join up and communication. The water companies we will work with are South West Water, Wessex Water, Bristol Water and Bournemouth Water. We will coordinate with the Upstream Thinking project where it overlaps with CSF high priority areas. We will work in partnership with the water companies on specific projects, as described below.
- Each CSFO will run their own farmer steering group. There will be two small groups in West Cornwall, one in North Cornwall, one for the Tamar, one for North Devon, one in South Devon and two in East Devon. In Wessex, there will



be two in Dorset, two for the Hampshire Avon, two in South and West Somerset and one in the Avon Bristol and North Somerset Streams.

- There are a number of other organisations that CSF works with collaboratively and on an ad-hoc basis such as the NFU, Westcountry Rivers Trust more widely, Bristol and Avon Rivers Trust, the Wildlife Trusts, Highways Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, Mole Valley Farmers, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) / Campaign for the Farmed Environment, and county councils, and the SW River Basin District Liaison Panel (the focus for river basin planning, led by the Environment Agency), strategically across the region. CSF does not currently sit on this group but may want to throughout Phase 4 as applicable.

In the South West RBD, CSF will work with the following **partners or partnership projects** in the catchments described below and will actively seek opportunities for further partnership working over the next 5 years:

- We will support the following CaBA Catchment Partnerships (host organisation(s) listed in brackets) through participation at meetings and local join up regarding targeting of work activities – Cornwall Catchment Partnership (Cornwall Wildlife Trust), Tamar (Westcountry Rivers Trust), North Devon (Westcountry Rivers Trust and Devon Wildlife Trust on behalf of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve), South Devon (South Devon AONB Unit and Westcountry Rivers Trust, supported by the Environment Agency) and East Devon (Devon Wildlife Trust), Dorset (Wessex Water and Dorset Wildlife Trust), Hampshire Avon (Wessex Chalk Stream and Rivers Trust), South and West Somerset (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West) and the Bristol Avon Catchment (Wessex Water).
- A Collaborative Agreement in 2016-17 with South West Water and Cornwall Wildlife Trust's Upstream Thinking project to link CSF and CS in the Drift catchment, West Cornwall.
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) – housing development mitigation requirement for the MoD on Salisbury Plain in the Hampshire Avon. This project starts in April 2016 and will run for 5 years.
- Bournemouth Water with the Dorset Stour Metaldehyde Project, a 5 year project starting in 2015.
- Wessex Water – Nitrogen Off-setting Project in Poole Harbour including the Nitrogen Use Efficiencies project. This project will be ongoing.
- Dorset County Council – Muddy Flooding Project to tackle sediment run-off and erosion to highways. This project is a two year pilot in 2015-16 but will be ongoing throughout Phase 4.

- EA with the Wessex Diffuse Pollution Project – an ongoing project.
- FWAG's Hills to Levels Project as part of the Somerset '20 year Flood Action Plan'. This project will continue to 2017, and possibly be ongoing after this.
- Bristol Water and the Mendips Lakes Partnership in North Somerset. This is a 5 year project.
- There are currently two CS Facilitation Fund projects in the South West; the South Devon Avon Valley (AONB) and the Torridge Headwaters (Devon Wildlife Trust). A number of partners are applying for similar funding for 2016 – to be confirmed. Facilitation Fund projects span over the next 5 years via the Countryside Stewardship scheme.

### **The South West River Basin District Legacy & Reduced Area Catchments**

In response to the Phase 4 priorities, CSF can no longer provide RDPE-funded farm advice or Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship advice and support in the Fal catchment (West Cornwall and the Fal management catchment) and the Dart, Avon and Yealm catchments (South Devon management catchment). CSF as a project is developing a phased approach to maintain and enhance the improvements secured to date. A handover package or guidance will be provided to help direct future work effectively.

CSF is working with the Environment Agency and Campaign for the Farmed Environment in the Fal catchment. CSF will explore working with the South Devon AONB partnership for the Avon, and the Environment Agency for the remaining legacy areas in South Devon as well as Westcountry Rivers Trust's Upstream Thinking project in the Dart catchment. Working with these partners, CSF aim to ensure the water quality improvements made to date are maintained and enhanced.

#### **1.4 Advocacy & Promotion**

Engaging with farmers and land managers to raise awareness of diffuse water pollution from agriculture and encouraging voluntary action, is the principal communication objective for CSF. The outcome for our communication work is that the CSF work and role is understood and valued.

Our communication approach will come from the River Basin District level and RBCs will consider appropriate communication activities to support the following communication objectives:

- Raise awareness amongst farmers and land managers of the impacts of diffuse water pollution from agriculture.

- Encourage farmers and land managers in catchments to take voluntary action to mitigate diffuse water pollution from agriculture. Facilitate synergy and integration with related programmes and mechanisms to tackle diffuse water pollution from agriculture by ensuring CSF is embedded within River Basin Management and the overall policy framework for diffuse pollution mechanisms.
- Work with stakeholders to develop and deliver partnerships to encourage action to address diffuse water pollution from agriculture.

Within the South West RBD, CSFOs in their Local Plans identify the methods of communication they will use, as well as identifying partnerships, groups and events they will engage with or communicate with. Partners are described above in Section 1.3.

## Section 2: Detailed Approach

### 2.1 WFD Water management catchments covered by this strategy

WFD Water Management Catchment	Water Priority Area (WPA)(ha)	Status (new in 2015, on-going, legacy)	Number of farms in WPA	Protected Area	DWPA Pressures
<b>West Cornwall and the Fal</b>	13,786	Drift was new for 2015	198	Surface water safeguard Zone (SGZ)	Phosphate Pesticides
		Marazion is on-going		Natura 2000 site with a Diffuse Water Pollution (DWP) Plan	Phosphate Nitrate Sediment
		The Cober is on-going		SSSI with a DWP Plan and SGZ Good Ecological Status (GES) failure(s) Surface water SGZ	Phosphate Sediment Pesticides
		Porthluney is on-going		Bathing Water	Faecal Indicator Organisms (FIOs)
<b>North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe and Fowey</b>	56,558	Porth is new	678	Bathing Water	FIOs
		Parts of the Camel catchment are new; the rest is on-going		Natura 2000 site with DWP Plan Shellfish Water GES failure(s)	Phosphate Sediment FIOs
		The Pont Pill is on-going		GES failure(s) Shellfish Water	Phosphate FIOs
		West Looe is new		Bathing Water	FIOs
		East Looe and Seaton are on-going		Bathing Water GES failure(s)	FIOs Phosphate in East Looe
		The Strat is on-going		GES failure(s)	Sediment
		The Valency is new		GES failure(s)	Sediment
<b>Tamar</b>	42,227	The majority of the Tamar is on-going and the main Upper Tamar and Upper Tamar Lake is new	758	Surface Water SGZ GES failure(s)	Phosphate Sediment Nitrates Pesticides
<b>North Devon</b>	102,180	The upper Torridge is on-going. The rest of the high priority areas in the Taw and Torridge and North Devon streams are new	1575	Bathing Waters Protected aquatic species Shellfish Water GES failure(s) Surface Water SGZ	Phosphate Pesticides FIOs Sediment Nitrates
<b>South Devon</b>	21,585	The Erme is on-going	275	Bathing Water GES failures	FIOs Some phosphate issues Some sediment issues
		Salcombe to Kingsbridge Estuary is on-going		SSSI with a DWP Plan Shellfish Water (Slapton) GES failure(s)	Phosphate Nitrates Sediment Some FIO issues



WFD Water Management Catchment	Water Priority Area (WPA)(ha)	Status (new in 2015, on-going, legacy)	Number of farms in WPA	Protected Area	DWPA Pressures
East Devon	106,499	Exe: The on-going areas are the headwaters of the Creedy and Holly Water, the Clyst and Spratford Stream. The new areas are the Yeo, Lilly Brook, Jackmoor Brook, Shobrook Lake, the Dart, Burn and Bathern	1776	GES failure(s) Shellfish Water Surface water SGZ	Phosphate Pesticides FIOs Sediment Some nitrate issues
		Otter: The Otter is on-going with a new section along the Budleigh Brook and in the headwaters of the Otter		Bathing Water GES failure(s) Groundwater SGZ	Phosphate FIOs Some sediment issues
		Axe: The Coly is new. The main river Axe into the headwaters including the Yarty and Corry Brook are on-going. The Blackwater River and River Kit are new		Surface water safeguard Zone (SGZ)	Phosphate Sediment
Dorset	211,305	Dorset Stour has expanded to incorporate most of the catchment except for part of the Tarrant and the Allen. The Frome, Piddle, Chesil and Fleet are on-going. West Dorset Streams is new but doesn't include the Char Valley	2062	Natura 2000 site with a Diffuse Water Pollution (DWP) Plan	Phosphate Pesticides FIOs Sediment Nitrates
Avon Hampshire	171,925	The whole of the Hampshire Avon catchment is now targeted	827	SSSI with a DWP Plan and SGZ Good Ecological Status (GES) failure(s) Surface water SGZ	Nitrates Phosphate Sediment Pesticides FIOs (in one WFD waterbody)
South and West Somerset	249,812	All of the Water Management Catchment is now targeted	3532	Bathing Water	Phosphate Pesticides Faecal indicator organisms (FIOs) Sediment Nitrates
Avon Bristol and North Somerset Streams (in the Severn RBD)	50,618	The Ladden Brook, upper reaches of the Bristol Avon around Calne and the extended North Somerset levels are new.  The Chew Valley Lake catchments are slightly expanded but mainly ongoing	759	Bathing Water	Phosphates Pesticides Sediment Nitrates

## 2.1.1 Natural England areas covered by this strategy

Natural England Area Team	WFD Water management catchment relating to Natural England Area Team	Number of priority farms per NE Area Team	Number of priority farms per NE Area Team to be engaged in 2016/17
<b>Area 12, Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly</b>	West Cornwall and Fal North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe and Fowey Tamar North Devon South Devon East Devon	2,000	80 farms * 7 FTE = 560 (this would be if we were full staff complement)
<b>Area 13, Dorset and Hampshire</b>	Dorset Avon Hampshire (lower)	1,800	80 farms* 2.5 FTE = 200 (this would be if we were full staff complement)
<b>Area 11, Somerset, Avon and Wiltshire</b>	Avon Bristol and North Somerset Streams South and West Somerset Avon Hampshire (upper)	2,500	80 * 5 FTE = 400 (this would be if we were full staff complement)

## 2.2 Resources

Water Management Catchment	Delivery Approach (CSFO, Partnership)	Resource needed (CSFO (FTE), details of the partnership)
<b>West Cornwall and the Fal</b>	CSFO and Collaborative Agreement with CWT for 2016-17	1 FTE in 2016-17 (Dropping to 0.6 FTE thereafter) CWT Upstream Thinking adviser supporting farmers in Drift reservoir catchment mainly for Countryside Stewardship and referring farmers for CSF specialist advice (via CSF Farm Advice Framework), where required.
<b>North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe and Fowey</b>	CSFO	1 FTE
<b>Tamar</b>	CSFO	1 FTE
<b>North Devon</b>	CSFO and informal partnership working with the North Devon CaBA group with a Collaborative Agreement with the North Devon Biosphere Reserve	1.5 FTE Partners supporting farmers for Countryside Stewardship and referring to CSF for specialist advice (via CSF Farm Advice Framework), where required. Partly covering CSFO temporary vacancy
<b>South Devon</b>	Collaborative Agreement with South Devon AONB	0.4 FTE CSFO role fulfilled by AONB to support Countryside Stewardship and referring farmers for CSF specialist advice (via CSF Farm Advice Framework) where required Partly covering CSFO temporary vacancy
<b>East Devon</b>	CSFO	2 FTE
<b>Dorset</b>	CSFO and Bournemouth Water Partnership	2 FTE 1 FTE
<b>Hampshire Avon</b>	CSFO and MoD Partnership	2 FTE 1 FTE
<b>South and West Somerset</b>	CSFO and Hills to Levels Project with FWAG	2 FTE 1 FTE covered by the Hills to Levels Project
<b>Avon Bristol and North Somerset Streams</b>	CSFO	1 FTE
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CSFOs and partnerships projects</b>	<b>16.9 FTE ( including 3 FTE on long term partnership projects) plus 3 short term collaborative projects to cover CSFO vacancies in 2016-17</b>

## 2.3 Communication actions for South West River Basin District

About your RBD	Your main audiences	Stakeholder engagement	Successful communication activities	How did you measure success?	Key milestones 2016-2017
Bathing Waters and Shellfish Waters, and a lot of coastline (FIOs)	Priority farmers Other farmers in the high priority areas	Steering Group meetings in local catchments, once or twice a year	Newsletters Local farm events	Feedback from contracted advice	In Spring – advice to farmers around FIOs prior to the Bathing Water season opening
Lots of groundwater aquifers in Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire (nitrates)	Farmers in water safeguard zones targeted by water companies and CSF	CSFO one to one advice on farm	Local media stories Presentations at third party events by invitation	Number of attendees at workshops and events	Rolling program of farmer events and specialist advice
Livestock and dairy farming in Devon and Cornwall in particular	Water companies Agronomists and farm advisers	Specialist farm advice visits	CSFO and FAF farm visits Partnership meetings	Audits measuring uptake of advice	Attendance at local shows: Dairy Show Sheep Southwest Bath and West Show
Representing all farming types across the region (except uplands)	AHDB Dairy/Beef and Lamb and British Grassland Society/ discussion groups	CSF workshops and events, including farm demonstrations with partners		New farmer engagement	Partner workshops and meetings – ad hoc
Many small farms as well as larger farm businesses and estates to the east	Land agents NFU/TFA/CLA	Newsletters Attending key partnership meetings and steering groups			Minimum of one newsletter to be sent out by each CSFO by March 2017
Increases in maize growing locally	Internal and external staff e.g. NE Area Teams, EA colleagues	Tweeting			Minimum of one steering group meeting to be held per CSFO by March 2017
High rainfall and sloping grassland landscapes in Devon and Cornwall	AD plants and Maize Growers Association,	Speaking at third party and partnership events			
Very flat land subject to flooding on the Somerset Levels	Local authorities, Highways Agency and Internal Drainage Board	Area team and relevant NE/EA meetings			
All ranges of soils including light loamy soils in Cornwall, heavy clays in North Devon, lighter soils in East Devon, chalky soils further east	Major landowners eg Crown Estate, Duchy Estate, MoD and National Trust	CSF e-bulletin, NE and EA internal comms channels			
Some of the best chalk streams in Europe	CaBA partnerships				
Rare Culm Grassland habitats in North Devon	NGOs and agricultural advisers working with farmers in the WPAs				
Very rural landscape					
Some lower than average incomes					

## **2.4 How can you help?**

This Strategy has been produced in consultation with our partners, including Environment Agency, Natural England and Defra. It aims to develop a framework over the next 5 years to deliver voluntary action on farms to reduce diffuse water pollution and increase water quality for Water Framework Directive. We're always happy to hear from others that want to share our objectives and may want to contribute to further work. If you would like further information, please contact your River Basin Coordinator Sarah Sanders on 07775 821703 or Jodene Williams on 07775 030564 or [CSFphase4planning@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:CSFphase4planning@naturalengland.org.uk)



## Glossary

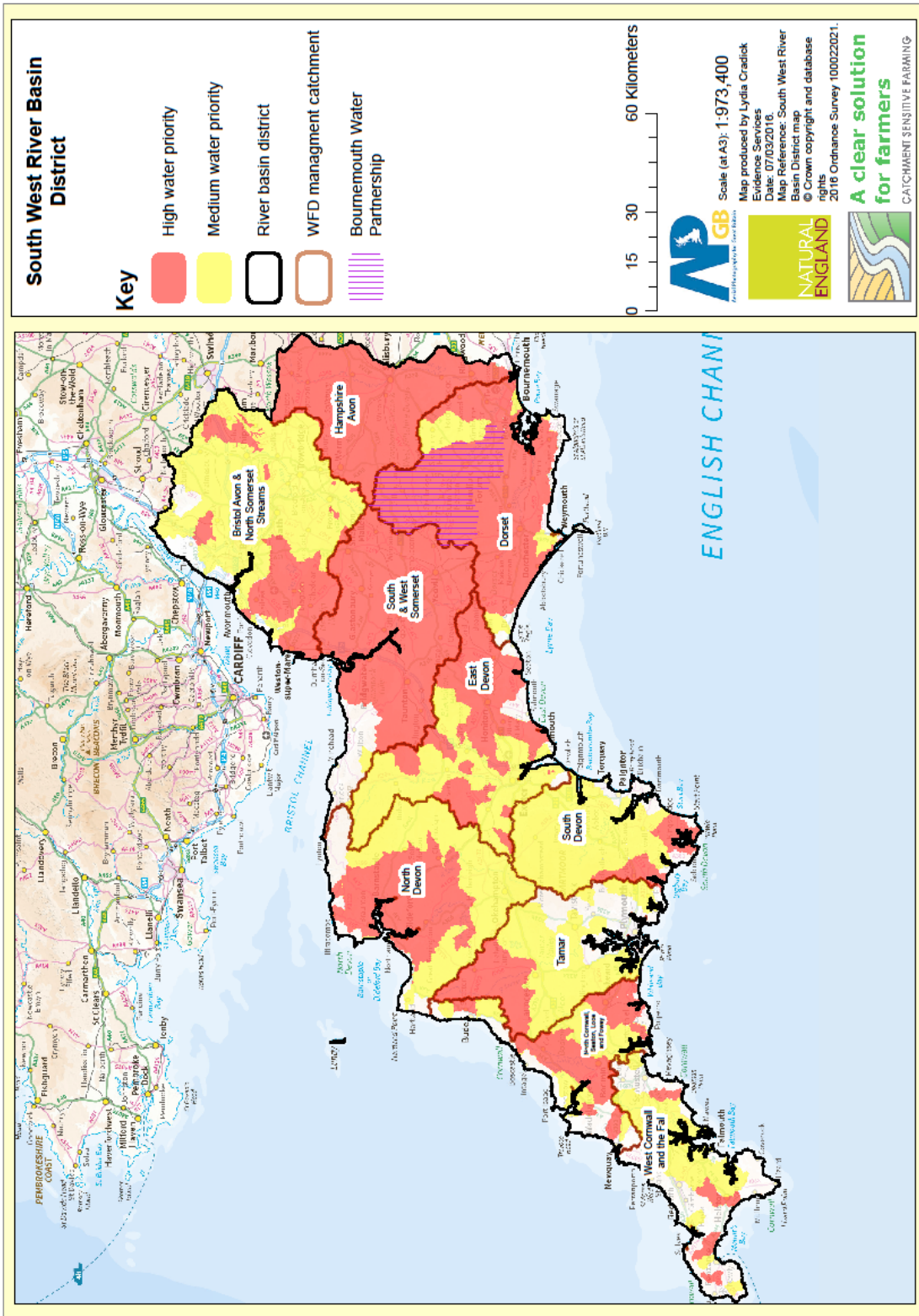
AHDB	Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CaBA	Catchment Based Approach
CFE	Campaign for the Farmed Environment
CGS	Capital Grant Scheme
CLA	Country Land and Business Association
CS	Countryside Stewardship
CSFO	Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer
CSFRD	CSF Reporter Database
CSG	Catchment Steering Groups
DTC	Demonstration Test Catchment
DWPA	Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture
EWQMP	Enhanced Water Quality Monitoring Programme
FAF	Farm Advice Framework
FAS	Farm Advice Service
FIOs	Faecal Indicator Organisms
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GES	Good Ecological Status
GIA	Grant in Aid
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
Legacy areas	these are Phase 3 areas where CSF can no longer provide advice in phase 4, due to new Countryside Stewardship targeting. The approach will depend on individual circumstance, as CSF endeavours to support advice through partners.
Legacy Approach	See 'Legacy areas'
Local Campaigns	This will be unique to each water priority area and may only be targeted to specific areas and/or types of farms to improve water quality.
MT	Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship
N2K	Natura 2000 Sites
NGO	Non-Government Organisation

Non-priority	these are farms that have been identified through desk-based modelling to Farms have the lowest risk to water quality. General advice on best practice will be made available to farms in this group. .
Phase 4	This the fourth phase of CSF from 2016 to 2021.
PMG	Project Management Group
PR19	Price Review 2019 (Ofwat)
Priority Farms	these are farms that have been identified through desk-based modelling to benefit most from CSF help and advice. Throughout phase 4 advisers will be proactive in working with these farms.
Protected Area	e.g. Shellfish Water, Bathing Water, Natura 2000 sites, Drinking Water
RASE	Royal Agricultural Society of England
RBC	River Basin District Coordinator
RBD	River Basin District
RDPE	Rural Development Programme - England
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
Reduced Area Catchments	Catchments that through new targeting have significantly reduced in water priority area in Phase 4
SGZ	Safe Guard Zone
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
TFA	Tenant Farmers Association
Water quality elements of Countryside Stewardship	Options in CS
Water Quality Issues	e.g. sediment, phosphate, nitrate, FIO, pesticides
Water quality items	grant measures available through Countryside Stewardship to reduce diffuse pollution.
Water Quality Objectives	e.g. our aims to mitigate the water quality issues above
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WPA	Water Priority Area; this is the area defined as having the highest priority for improvements in water quality through Countryside Stewardship. In each catchment, these are the core target areas for CSF Phase 4.

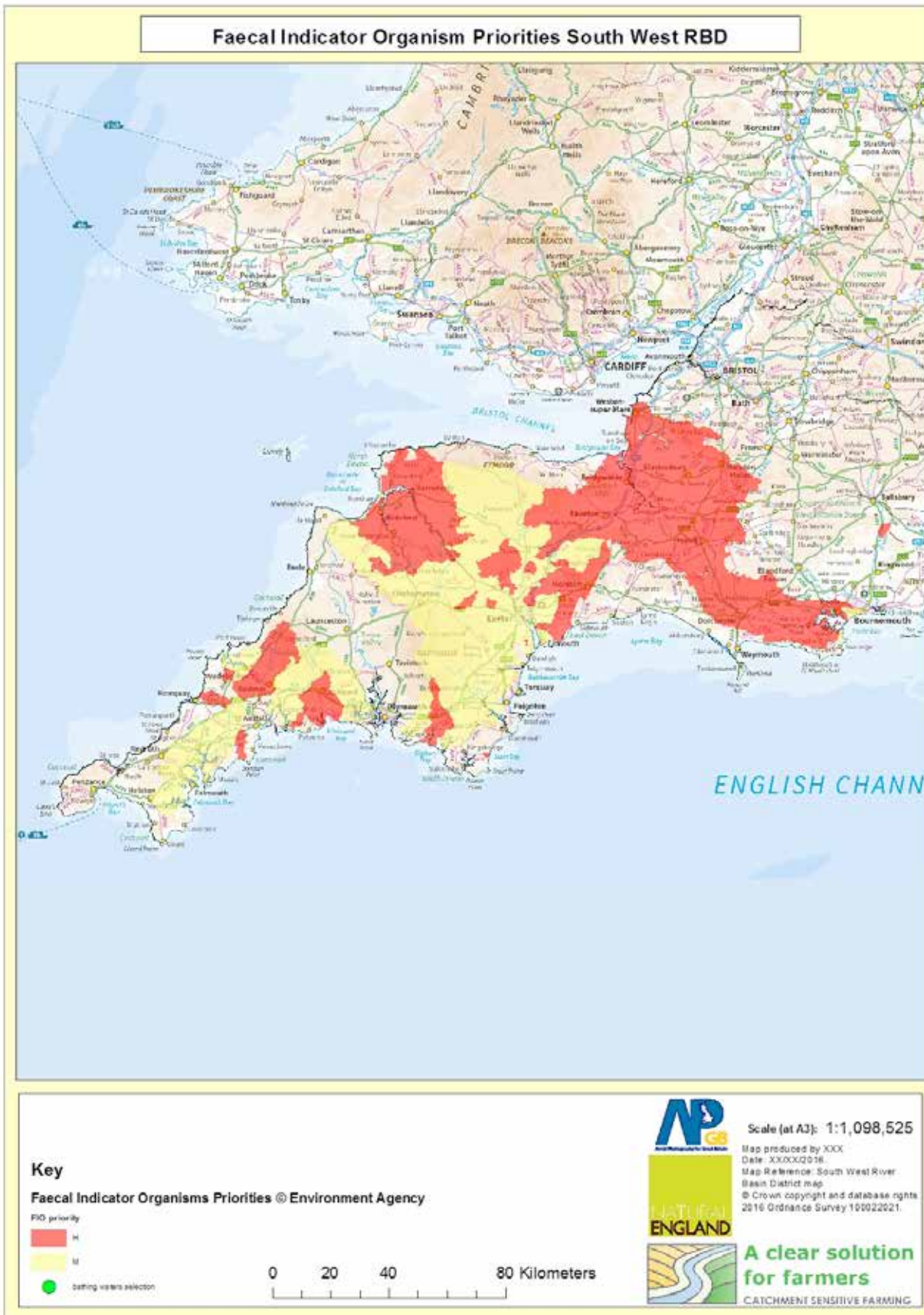
# River Basin District Maps

## Appendix 1

### High water quality priority areas for CSF advice and Countryside Stewardship (Taken from Countryside Stewardship targeting evidence 2013)



**Appendix 2**  
**WFD agricultural pollutant pressures for CSF advice and Countryside Stewardship** (Taken from Countryside Stewardship targeting evidence 2013)





## Groundwater Nitrate Priorities South West RBD



### Key

Groundwater Nitrate Priorities © Environment Agency

Groundwater Nitrate Priority



0 25 50 100 Kilometers



Scale (at A3): 1:1,293,840

Map produced by XXX

Date: XXX/XX/2016

Map Reference: South West River Basin District map

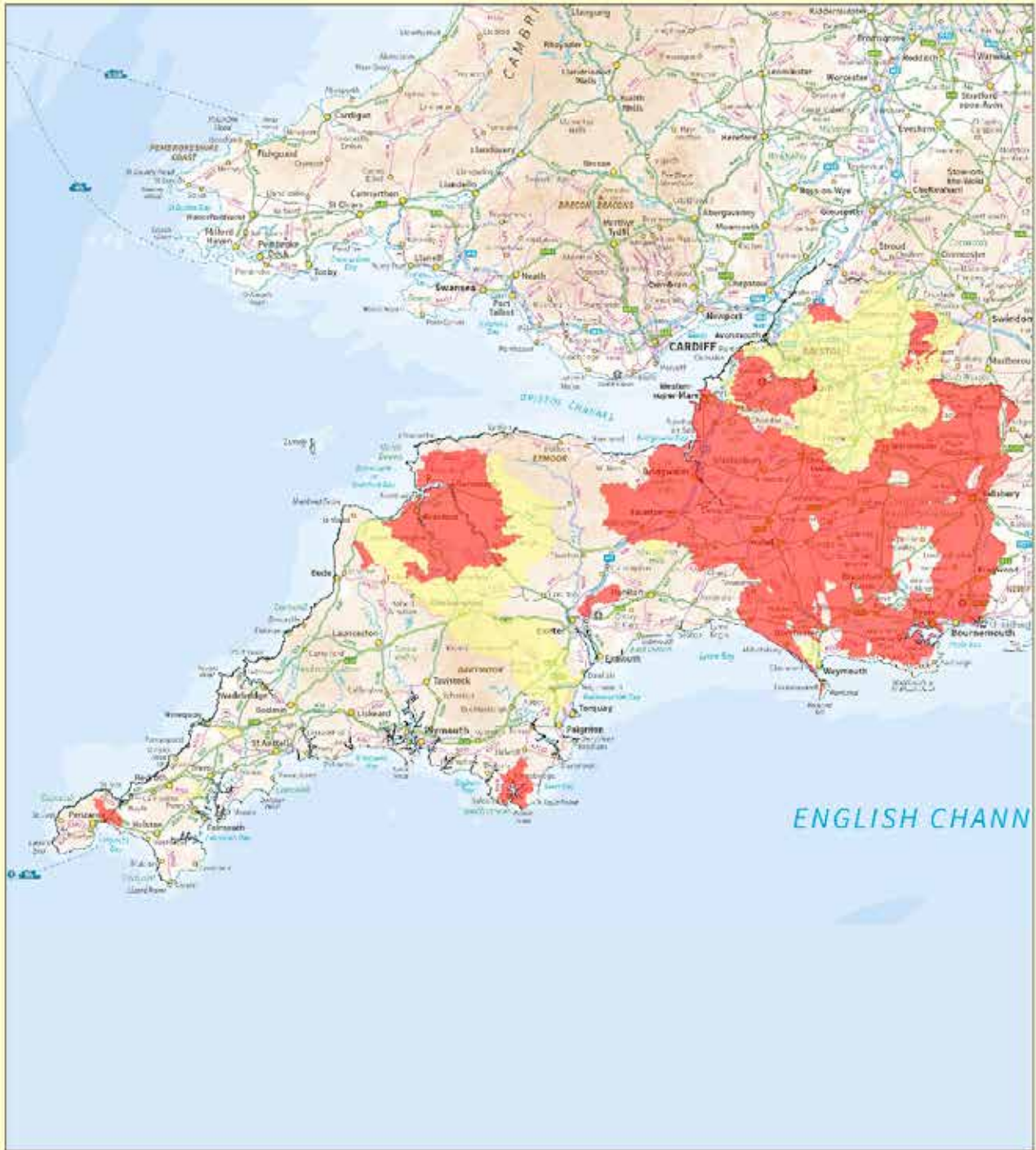
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CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

## Groundwater Pesticide Priorities South West RBD



### Key

River Nitrate Priorities © Environment Agency

River Nitrate Priority



0 20 40 80 Kilometers



Scale (at A3): 1:1,098,525

Map produced by XXX  
 Date: XXXX/2016  
 Map Reference: South West River  
 Basin District map  
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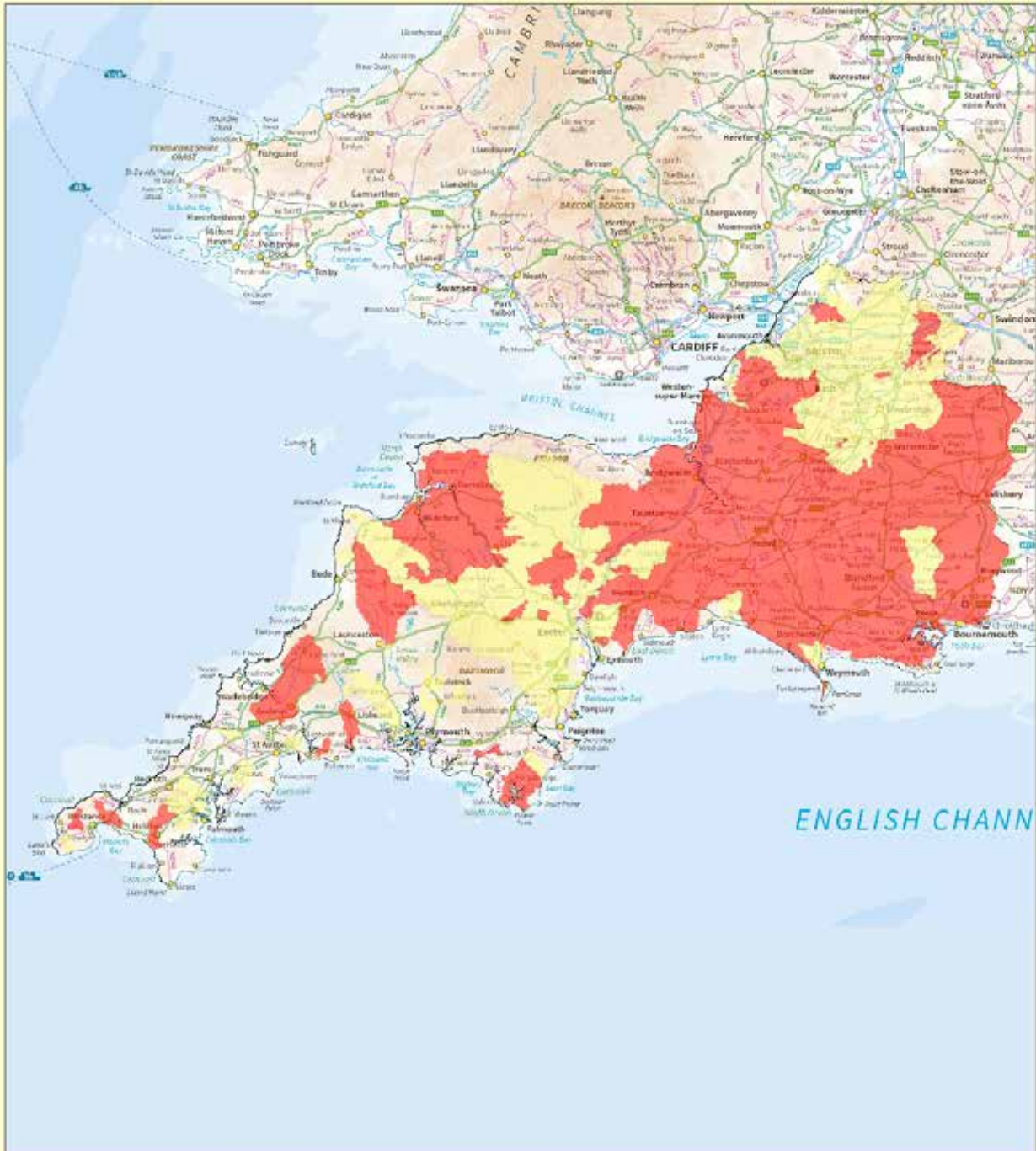


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## Phosphate Priorities South West RBD



### Key

Phosphate Priorities © Environment Agency

Phosphate Priority



0 20 40 80 Kilometers



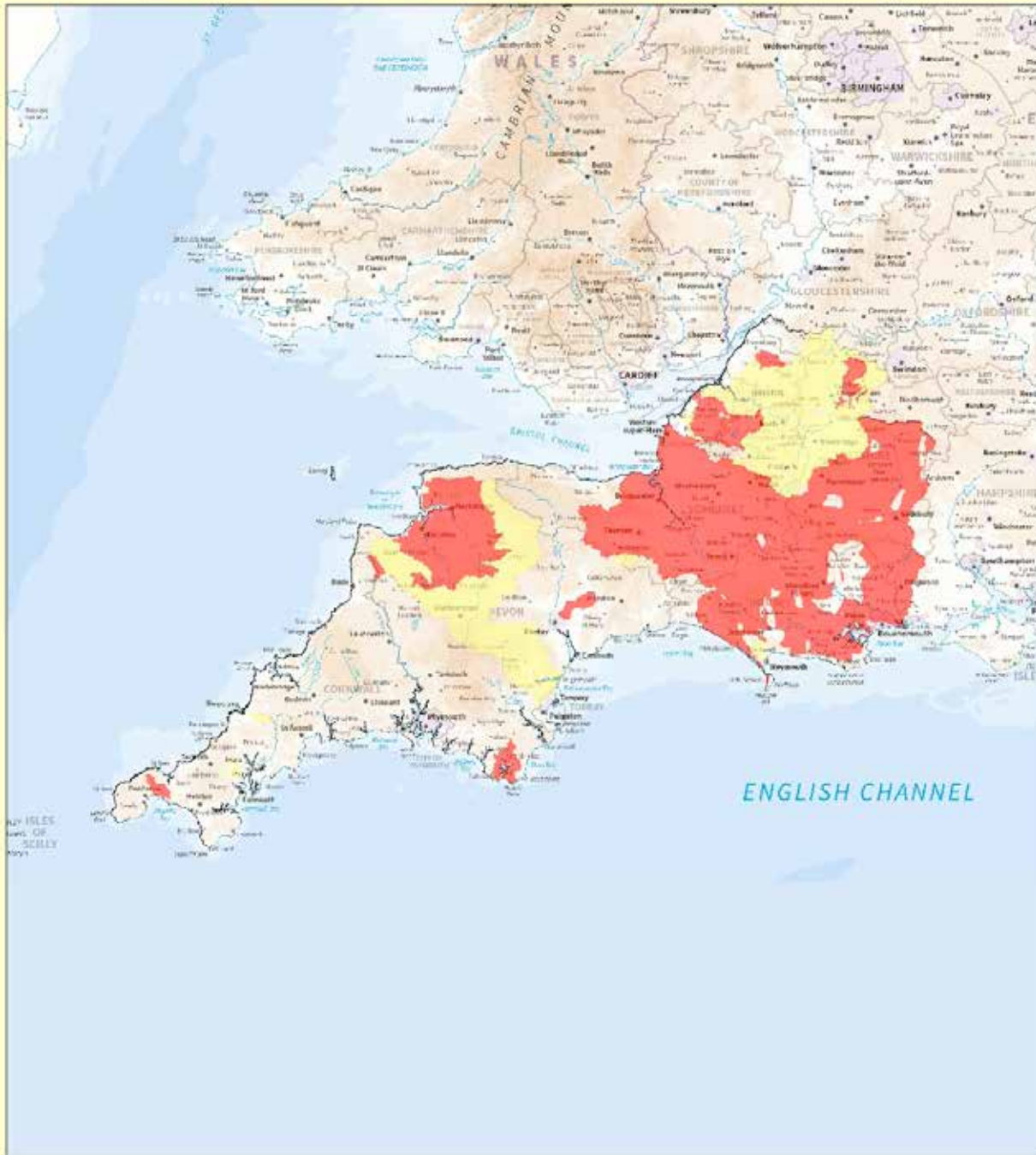
Scale (at A3): 1:1,098,525

Map produced by XXX  
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## River Nitrate Priorities South West RBD



### Key

River Nitrate Priorities © Environment Agency

River Nitrate Priority



0 25 50 100 Kilometers



Scale (at A3): 1:1,293,840

Map produced by XXX  
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Map Reference: South West River  
Basin District map  
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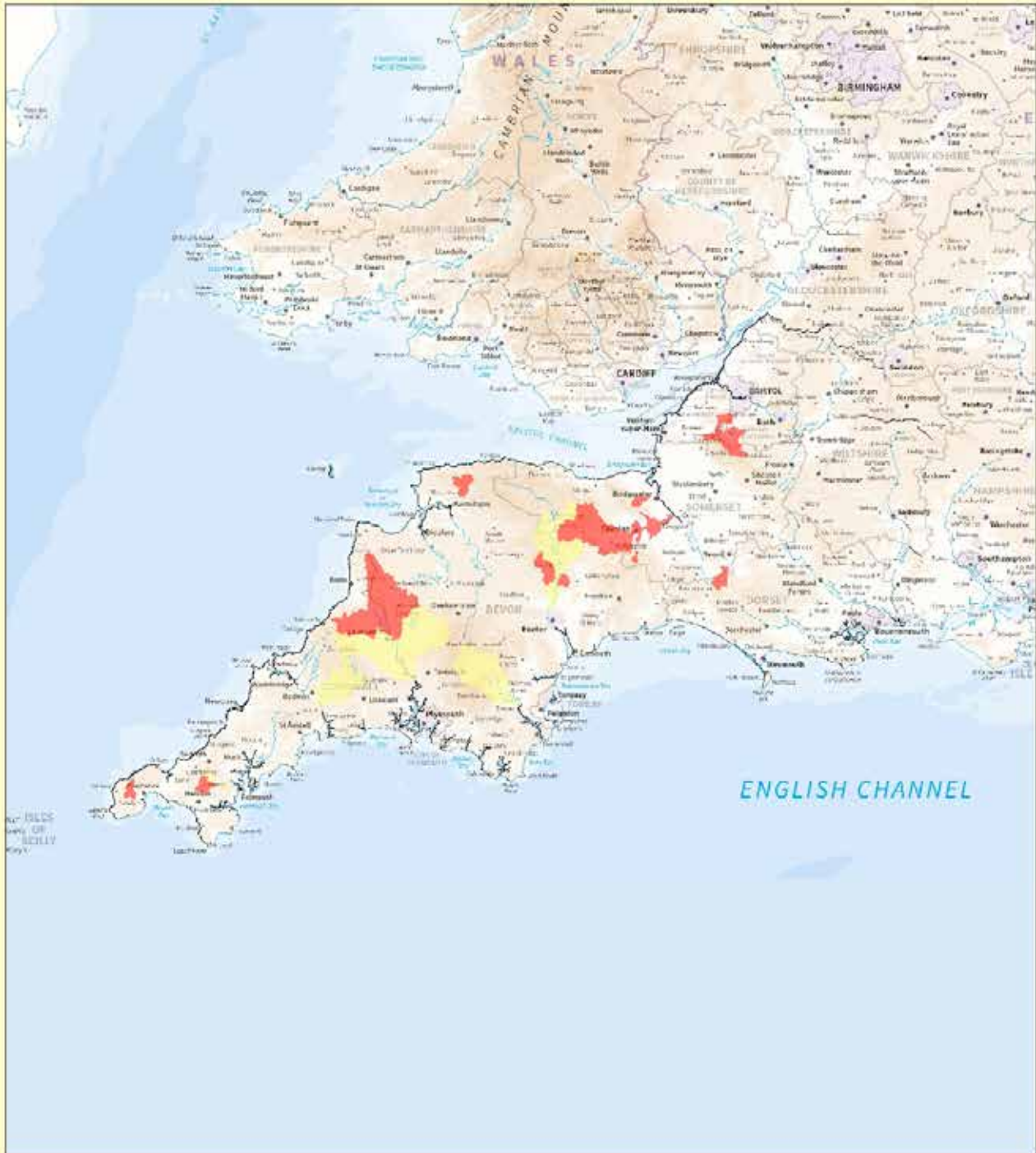


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# River Pesticide Priorities South West RBD



## Key

River Pesticide Priorities © Environment Agency

River Pesticide Priority



0 25 50 100 Kilometers



Scale (at A3): 1:1,293,840

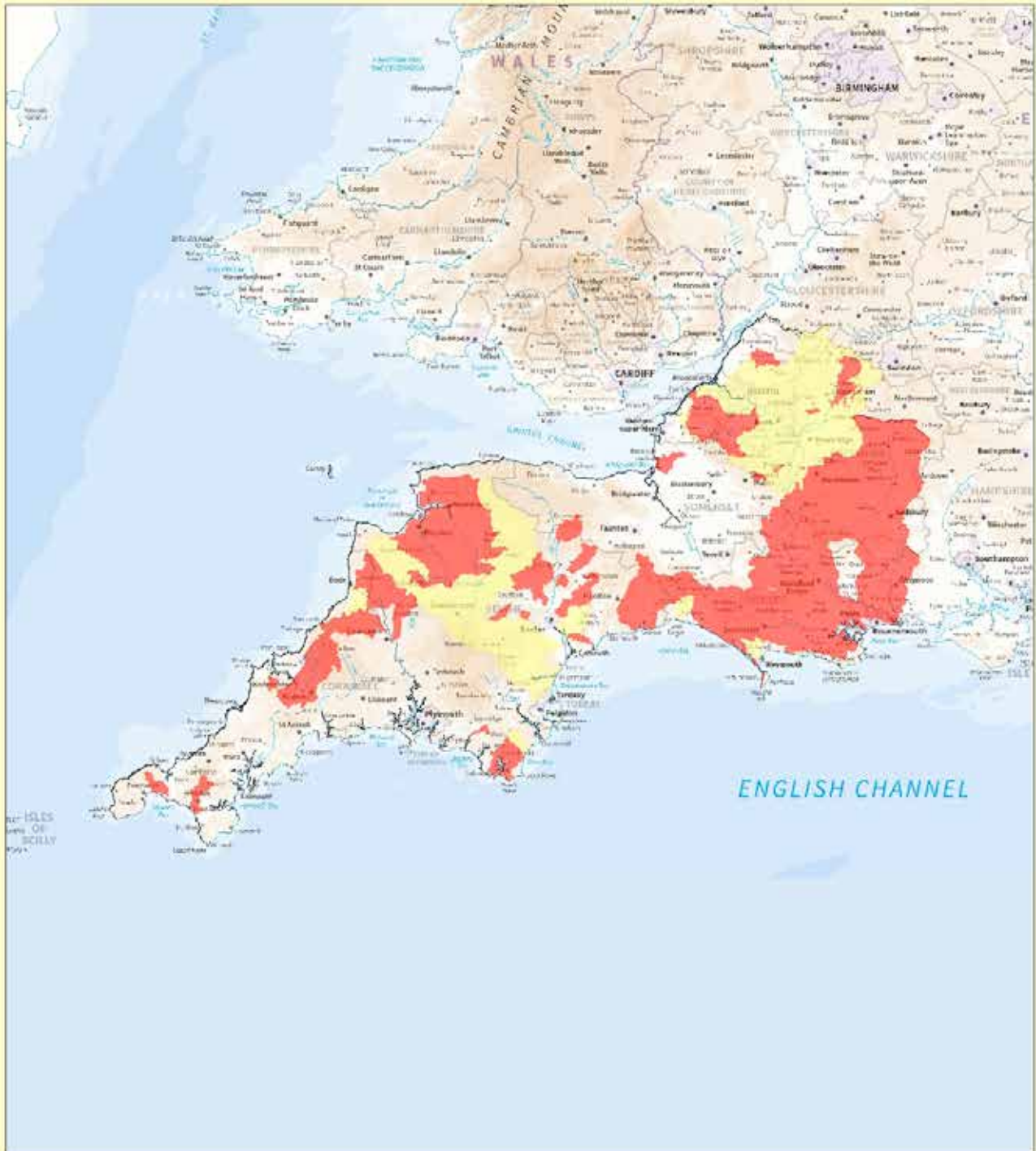
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## Sediment Priorities South West RBD



### Key

Sediment Priority © Environment Agency

Sediment Priority



0 25 50 100 Kilometers



Scale (at A3): 1:1,293,840

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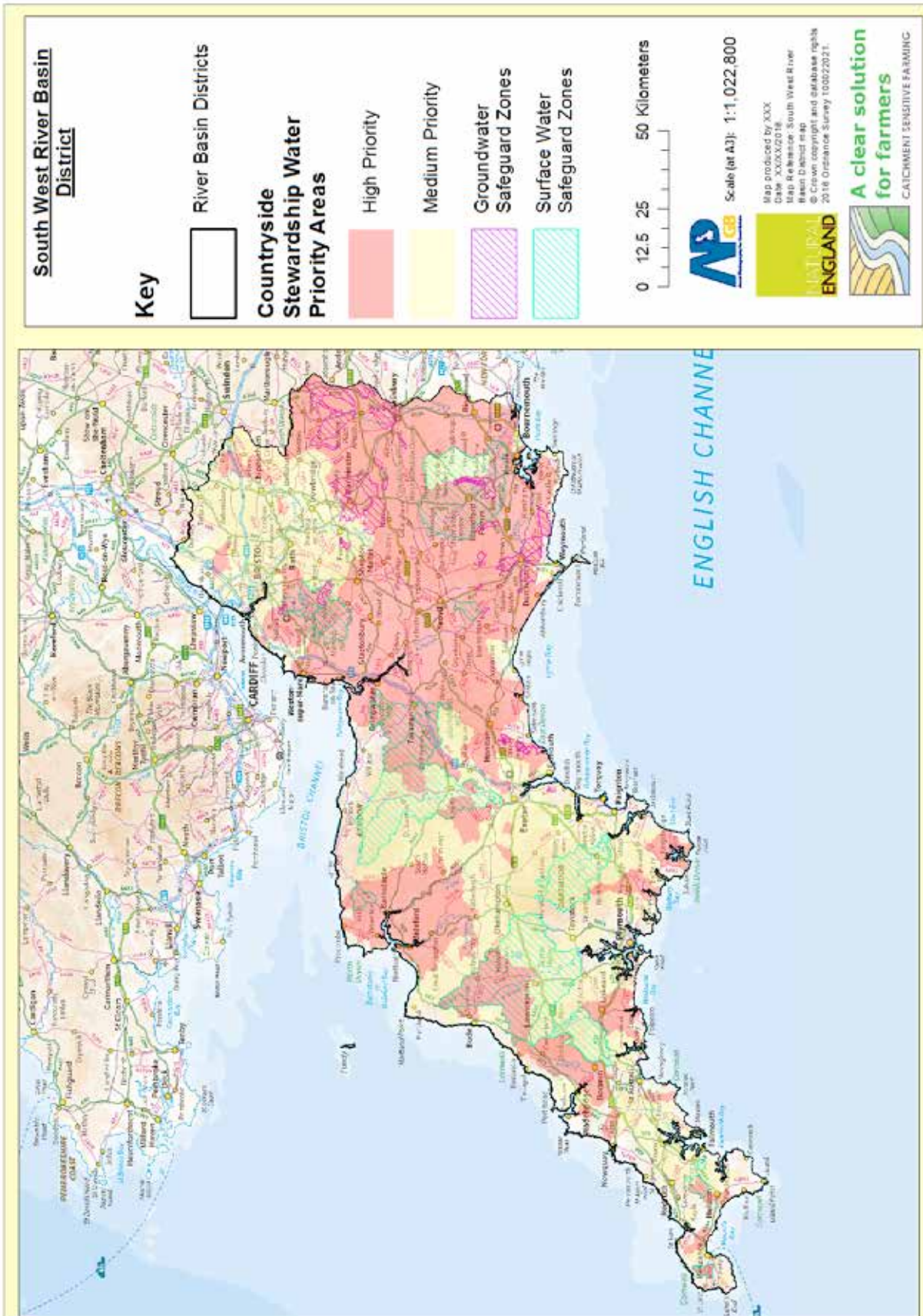


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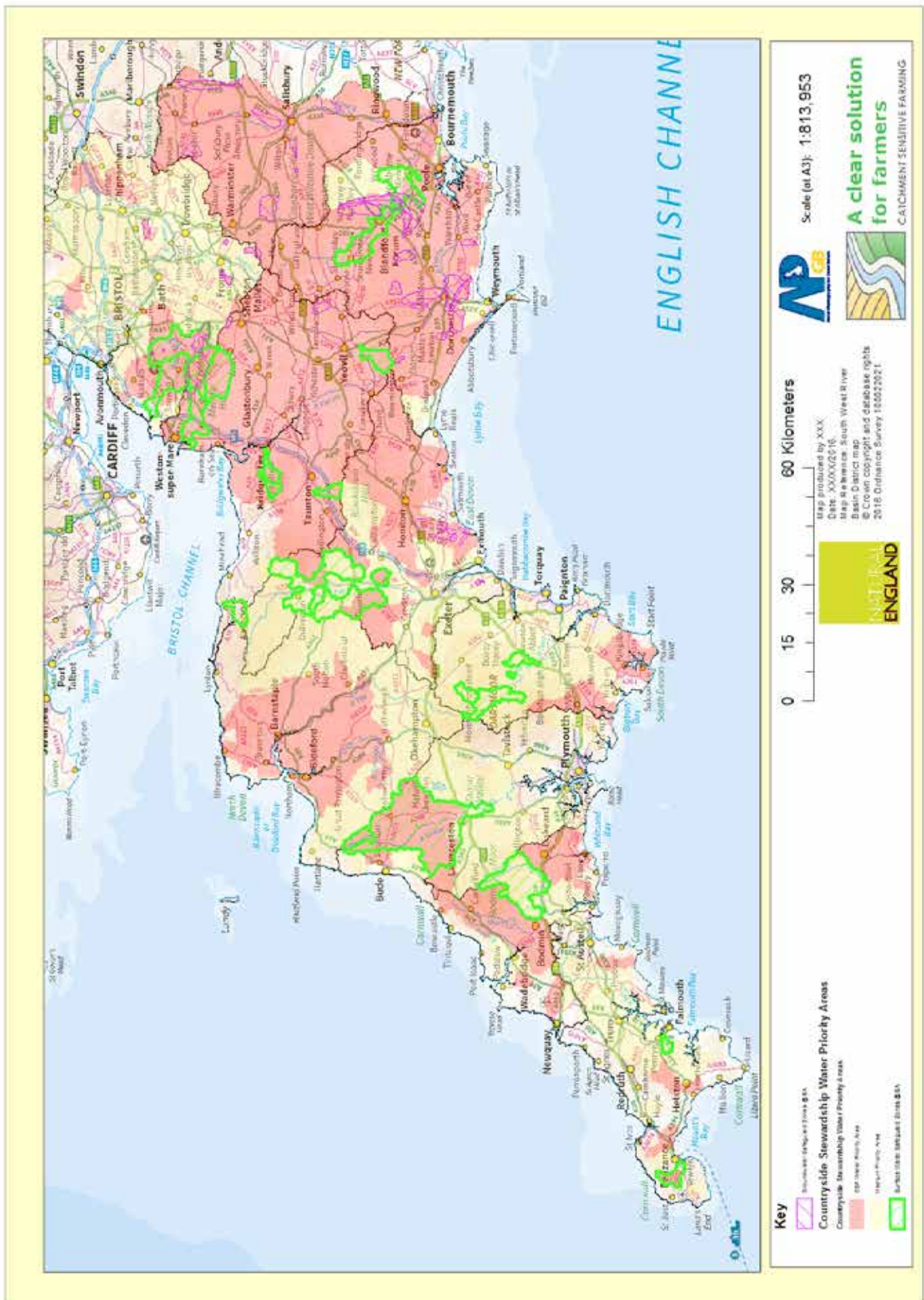
## Appendix 3

### WFD protected areas (2014 & 2016) and designated sites

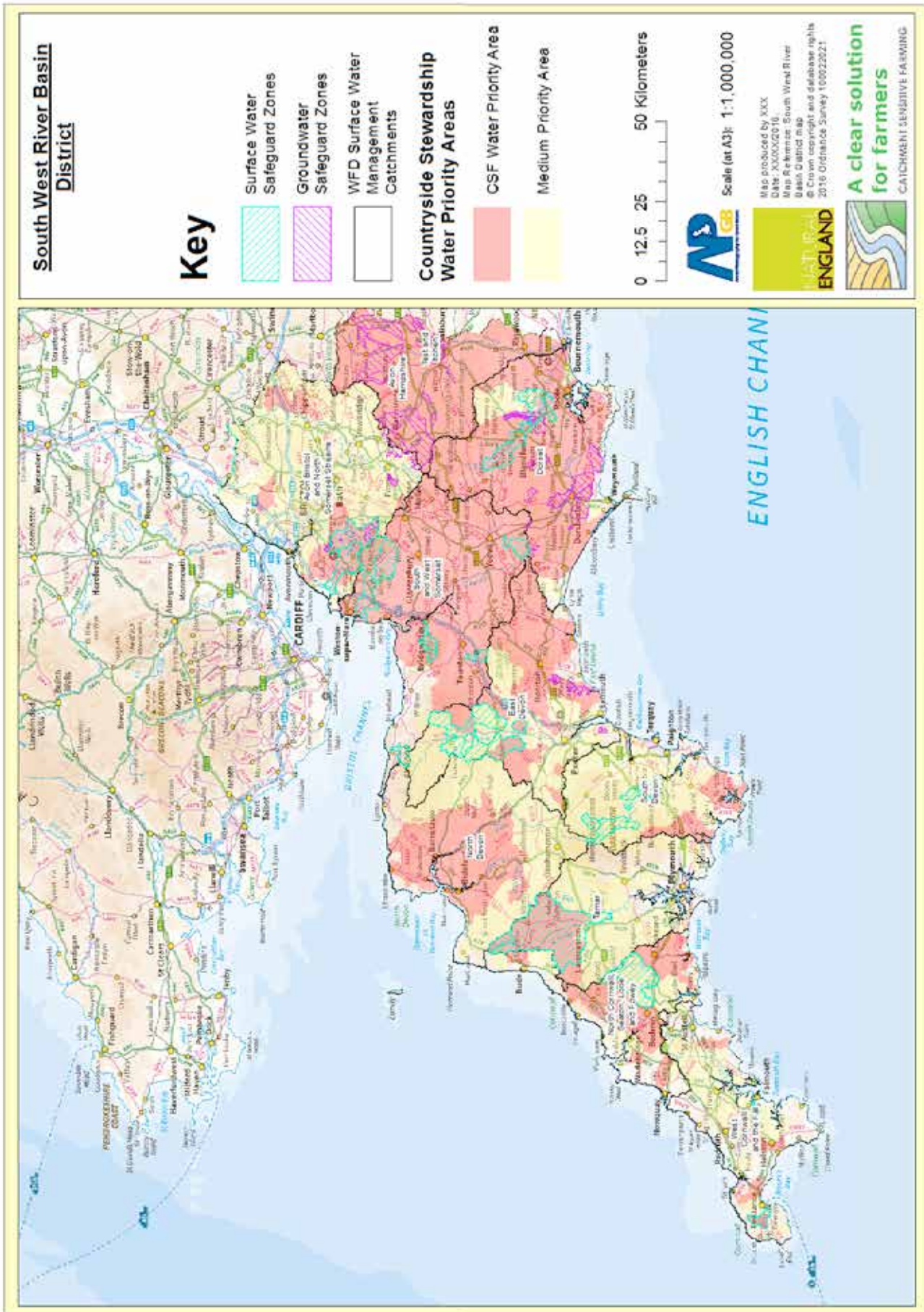




WFD bathing and shellfish waters

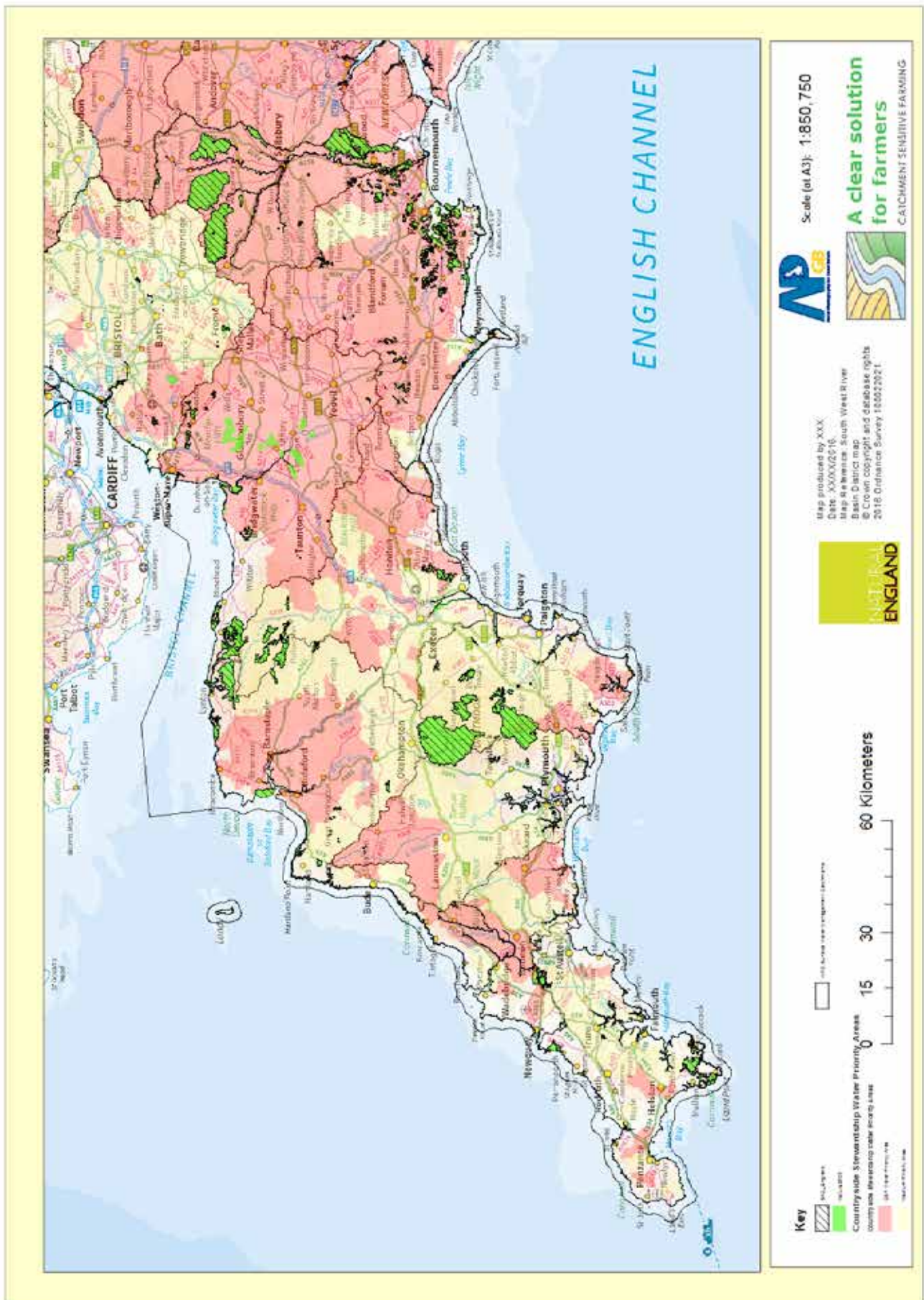


WFD drinking water safeguard zones



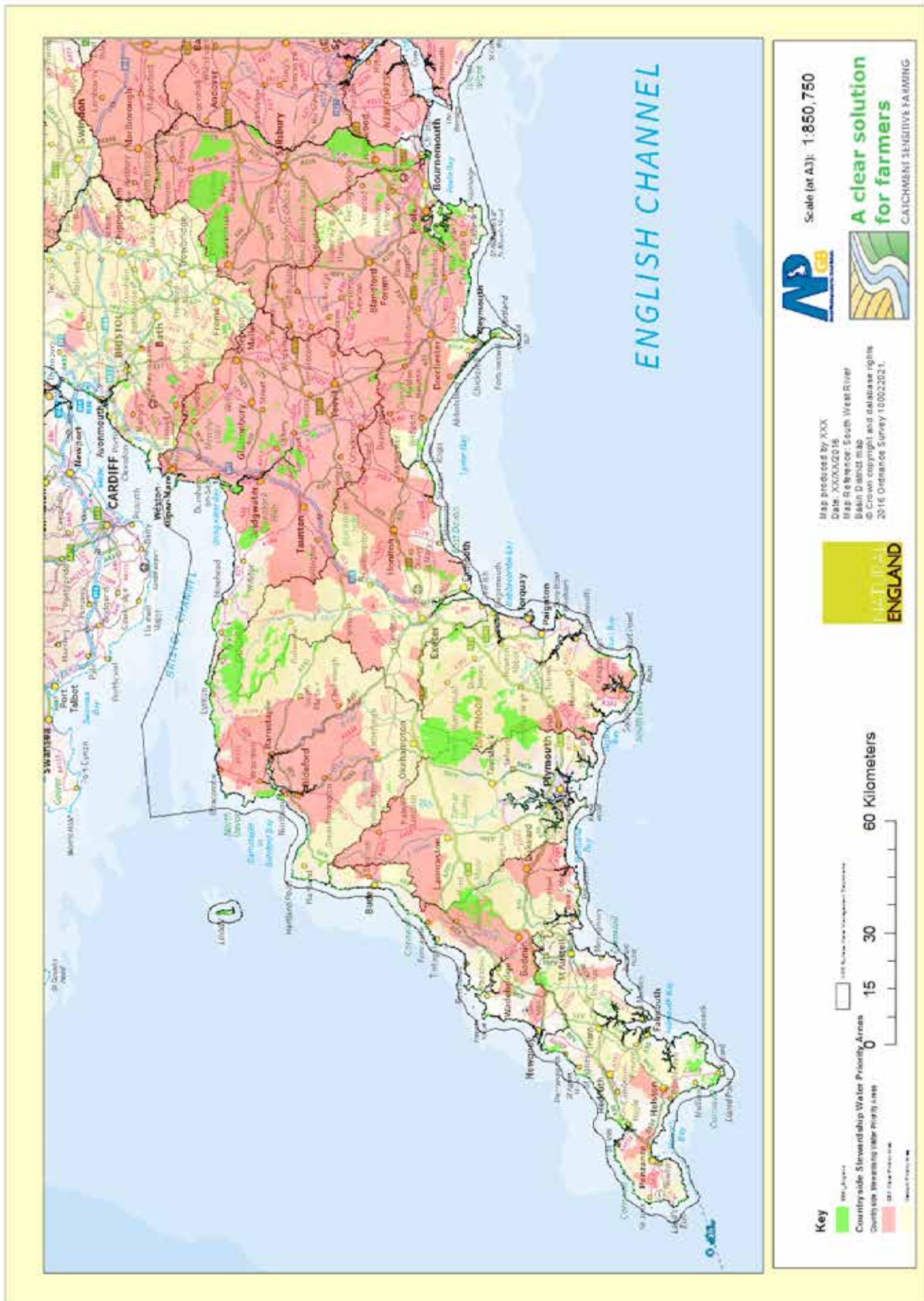


Natura 2000 Special Areas of Conservation





Sites of Special Scientific Interest



Cover photo:  
Holt and West Moors Heaths SSSI  
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