A clear solution for farmers
CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary
April 2012 – March 2015

Catchment: Cotswolds	CSFO: Stephanie Nellis, Andrew Russell, Sarah Howells	
Target Areas: • Abstraction SGZs, • Southern and Western SPZs • Upper and Lower Swell SPZ • Evenlode and tributaries • Cotswold Water Park SSSI	Total Area: 1460 Km^2	Target area Farms: 784

Reasons for designation

The key issue in the catchment is water quality in the ground waters feeding a number of public supply abstractions. This is therefore predominantly a groundwater area, although the catchment boundary follows the WFD surface water catchments which reflect surface water drainage. The river Evenlode and Cotswold Water Park are secondary targets.

Priorities

1. Nitrates within the safeguard zones for the abstractions at Seven Springs, Syreford, Old Chalford, Fairford, Pinnock and nitrates and pesticides (Bentazone and Propyzamide) at Blockley (to include the Sheafhouse catchment).
2. Nitrates and Metaldehyde at Source Protection Zones (Baunton, Bibury, Latton and Meysey Hampton Oolite) and Nitrates at Upper and Lower Swell Source Protection Zone
3. Pesticides (Metaldehyde, Propyzamide, Carbetamide Mecoprop) in the surface waters draining to the abstraction at Farmoor.
4. Sediments and phosphate in the Evenlode and tributaries
5. Nitrates within the Cotswold Water Park SSSI

Objectives

The overall objective for this catchment is to address the primary and secondary DWPA pressures that are impacting on the safeguard zones, source protection zones and failing surface waters in order to contribute to the desired environmental outcomes of a measurable reduction in DWPA impacting on the protected areas and SSSI within target portions of the catchment.

The primary objective will be to address the sources and pathways for nitrate and pesticides to protected ground waters but the programme will also focus on the main sources of sediment entry and reduce the loss of sediment, and associated soil-bound phosphate through appropriate changes in land management.
Other objectives include reducing connectivity between the land and surface water, through promotion of resource protection options available in Environmental Stewardship and decreasing inputs of organic and inorganic fertilizer to reduce run-off to surface and groundwaters.

Delivery

Awareness raising / training events

1. Nitrates and Phosphates – Manure and nutrient management, cover crops, soil husbandry, Farm infrastructure.
2. Sediments – Soil husbandry, PLANET training, water use for livestock
3. Pesticides – Pesticide handling areas and biobeds
4. Metaldehyde – slug pellet applicator calibration, PA4 training, pesticide handling

One to one training

Initial Whole Farm Audits on farms in key target areas – identify specific topics for follow on advice/ training on:-
1. Nitrates – nutrient and manure planning, farm infrastructure.
2. Phosphates / sediments – nutrient and manure planning, soil analysis, soil husbandry, farm infrastructure, water management.
3. Pesticides – pesticide handling and facilities / biobed design & installation, pesticide planning & agronomy

Use of Environmental Stewardship Scheme and other grant schemes:
ELS resource protection options bundles (soil / water retention) – link to advisers providing ELS training in the catchment - encourage selection of resource protection options in applications.
CSF capital grant scheme – target at key areas / farm types / infrastructure improvements

Targeting Map