

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	Northumbria	Plan prepared	November 2013 (updated January 2014)
<p>Natura 2000 Catchments covered by this plan</p>	<p>Tweed, Aln, Coquet and Coastal Streams Priority Catchment</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 the 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>Natura 2000 sites covered by this plan</p>	<p>Tweed Catchment Rivers – England: Lower Tweed and Whiteadder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unit 1: Wark to Tillmouth - Unit 2: Tillmouth to Estuary - Unit 3: Whiteadder <p>Tweed Catchment Rivers – England: Till Catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unit 5: Bowmont to Glen - Unit 6: Upper Till - Unit 7: Lower Till <p>Lindisfarne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unit 1: Belford Burn and Waren Burn - Unit 5: South Low - Unit 10: North Low
<p>Natura 2000 Catchment(s) not being considered for grants</p>	<p>Tweed Catchment Rivers – England: Lower Tweed and Whiteadder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tweed groundwater bodies - Newbiggin Dean <p>Lindisfarne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hetton Burn - Long Nanny 	<p>Rationale</p>	<p>Those sub-catchments excluded from this plan, do not help meet an environmental remedy and therefore do not meet all three of the criteria required to meet the needs of this exercise.</p>

Catchment 1

Catchment where grants will be offered	Tweed, Aln, Coquet and Coastal Streams
Rationale for offering grant	<p>The sub-catchments targeted within this plan, are all part of our main priority catchment and subsequently meet mainstream CSF criteria. The main pollution pressures include: elevated phosphate levels and sediment on the Tweed Catchment Rivers, and nutrients and sediment on Lindisfarne, as outlined in the Catchment Summary.</p> <p>The Tweed Catchment Rivers are divided into two components – the Till catchment and the Lower Tweed and Whiteadder. The major English tributary to the Tweed is the River Till, which flows from the Cheviot Massif to join the Tweed north of Etal. The Tweed SSSI/Special Area of Conservation (SAC) includes the lowest section of the Tweed (including the estuary) and the Whiteadder. These catchments have SSSI units in Unfavourable Condition due to water pollution from agricultural run-off.</p> <p>Lindisfarne is an extremely important site holding the largest areas of coastal and littoral habitat anywhere between the Scottish Border and the River Tees. Habitats present include an extensive and varied dune system and very large areas of saltmarsh including all three British species of eel grass. There are also extensive areas of intertidal sand and mudflats, which make the site extremely significant for wildfowl (including internationally important numbers of over-wintering Brent geese). Excess nutrient loads feeding into Lindisfarne are causing prolific swathes of enteromorpha. The SSSI units being targeted at Lindisfarne are in Unfavourable Recovering condition, however local evidence suggests that were the units to be assessed at this point in time they would almost certainly fail. There are real problems ‘on the ground’ with enteromorpha and local Environment Agency (EA) monitoring is suggesting evidence of excessive nutrient loads.</p>

<p>Description of theme</p>	<p>The Till catchment drains the Cheviot Massif and its headwaters are within Northumberland National Park and are extensively grazed. The Till then flows through more intensive grazing to mixed and arable farms north of Wooler. The English component of the Tweed and Whiteadder are downstream reaches which are predominantly arable with some mixed farms and also include two major dairy farms.</p> <p>The coastal streams feeding into Lindisfarne (North Low, South Low, Belford and Waren Burns) have their sources to the east of the Cheviots, flowing past Lowick, Ancroft, Haggerston, Beal, Belford and Waren Mill. Elevated nutrient levels from these burns are impacting on the mud flats, by encouraging enteromorpha growth. These catchments are listed in the EA reasons for failure.</p> <p>The major pollutants being targeted are:</p> <p>Lindisfarne (Coastal Streams) – nutrients and sediment Till – sediment and Faecal Indicator Organisms (FIOs) Tweed/Whiteadder – sediment and FIOs</p> <p>The key objectives within the catchment are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce the loss of sediment and associated soil-bound phosphate particles through appropriate changes in land management and livestock movements• Improve clean and dirty water separation through infrastructure improvements• Reduce connectivity between the land and surface water through promotion of track and riparian zone management• Reduce inputs of fertiliser to reduce leaching to groundwater and run-off to surface waters, and• Improve timing of livestock manure applications <p>The Funding Priority Statement for the Tweed, Aln. Coquet and Coastal Streams includes capital items which will specifically help address these issues and subsequently help achieve the remedies identified in Ensis for the affected units.</p>
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<p>Area / holdings to be targeted</p>	<p>The catchments comprised within this plan cover a geographic area of 1135km², from the Scottish Border, down the eastern coastal stretch to incorporate Lindisfarne and Budle Bay, and the Cheviot Massif to the west and south.</p>
<p>CSF Capital grant Scheme (CGS) items to be deployed</p>	<p>The top ten items on our Funding Priority Statement are all relevant to achieve the objectives set out in this plan and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSF003 Watercourse Fencing CSF007 Hard bases for livestock drinkers and feeders CSF010 Livestock drinking trough with associated pipe work CSF011 Cross drains CSF012 Sediment ponds and traps CSF014 Yard works for clean and dirty water separation CSF021 Livestock and machinery tracks and associated livestock fencing CSF023 Roofing of manure storage and livestock gathering areas CSF024 Watercourse crossings CSF026 Roofs for slurry and silage stores