



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: Severn	Catchment: Leam (Upper Avon)
Total Area: 373 km²	N° of Target Farms: 350

Reasons for designation

The Leam catchment is a designated Drinking Water Protected Area and it is currently failing due to diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA).

Priorities

Surface Water Drinking Water Protected Area – High levels of pesticides in surface waterbodies. Pesticides - Carbetamide, propyzamide, metazachlor, bentazone, clopyralid, fluroxypyr, 2,4-D, MCPA, mecoprop, metaldehyde and glyphosphate regularly exceed drinking water standard of 0.1 µg/L.

The catchment also suffers from high phosphate concentrations.

Objectives

- Reduce sources of phosphates and pesticides reaching surface waters via drain flow by promoting adoption of best practice measures and also looking into alternative mitigation measures to reduce pesticide peaks.
- Reduce the loss of sediment and associated soil-bound phosphate particles through appropriate changes in land management following provision of advice or use of ELS/HLS options.

Delivery

- Advice on best practice will be targeted to holdings which lie in the target area around Southam and are in close proximity to the River Itchen and the River Stowe. Workshops and one-to-one farm visits will look at pesticide training, pesticide handling areas, machine calibration and product use. The use of riparian buffer strips and tree planting to reduce pesticides reaching waterbodies will be encouraged.
- Working with landowners to increase the uptake of mitigation measures to reduce pesticide peaks. Including farm trials to look into product substitution where appropriate.
- Best practice pesticides advice will be available to the whole catchment, particularly with regard to installing biofilters and slug pellet applicator training and calibration.
- Advice on soil and nutrient management will be given to farmers in the whole catchment to reduce excess phosphate available for leaching. Workshops and one-to-one farm visits will be available addressing soil management practices to reduce losses of sediment and associated phosphate.

- CSF Capital Grant visits will occur throughout the catchment, however those holdings within the target area will be prioritised.

Targeting Map

