2014/15 Capital Grants: Natura 2000 (N2K) Targeting Plan

River Basin District Plans outlining the targeting approach to Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Capital Grants in 2014/15.

River Basin District	**Humber**	**Plan prepared**	**November 2013**
River Basin Targeting Criteria: N2K sites for which agriculture is a significant reason for failing to meet conservation objectives as noted in Diffuse Water Pollution (DWP) Plans. The exact criteria vary between catchments and are detailed separately in each section of this plan.			
Natura 2000 Catchments covered by this plan	Hornsea Mere Special Protection Area – East Riding of Yorkshire(6) River Derwent Special Area of Conservation – River Derwent (21) River Mease Special Area of Conservation – River Mease (56) Peak District Dales S*pecial Area of Conservation* – Peak District Dales (30)	**Natura 2000 sites covered by this plan**	Hornsea Mere Special Protection Area – Hornsea Mere SSSI River Derwent Special Area of Conservation – River Derwent SSSI River Mease Special Area of Conservation – River Mease SSSI Peak District Dales Special Area of Conservation – Wye Valley SSSI
Natura 2000 Catchment(s) *not* being considered for grants	Hornsea Mere Special Protection Area (SPA)	**Rationale**	Agriculture is not the major source of phosphate in the Mere as shown in the Water Framework Directive (WFD) investigation which states the following. "We can conclude that the influence of phosphorus from agriculture is minimal when compared with inputs from sewage and birds - otherwise we would expect agricultural phosphorus inputs from nutrient applications made after harvesting and during the early growth phase of successive crops to mirror the

			increase in nitrogen due to increased run-off under wetter conditions. Phosphorus as it is more readily bound up, and this further supports the evidence that diffuse agricultural run-off, while potentially contributing to background levels, will not be the main source of the current poor phosphate status of the Mere. Conversely during the drier summer months, with a constant phosphorus input under less dilution, the elevated trend supports the sources being attributable to sewage disposal / birds, not agriculture/ land use. “

Catchment 1

Catchment where grants will be offered	**Catchment 56: River Mease**
Rationale for offering grant	The key reasons for offering grant in this catchment are that: • The Mease catchment has both a designated SSSI (since 2000) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (since 2007) and neither is achieving favourable condition as a result of higher than target phosphate levels. The target level for the Mease to reach favourable condition is 0.06mg/l (orthophosphate), the average to the end of September 2013 is 0.22mg/l. • There are five WFD water bodies in the catchment and none are achieving Good Ecological Status as a result of higher than target phosphate levels. • Phosphate source apportionment by Environment Agency (EA), sediment finger printing in the upper part of the catchment and catchment walkovers indicate that a proportion of the phosphate arises from sources other than sewage treatment works. In parts of the upper catchment, particularly Gilwiskaw Brook; this evidence indicates that agriculture is the predominant source. • There is a range of capital items supported by the CSF Capital Grant Scheme that can help to reduce the level of phosphate (and sediment) as a result of Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture (DWPA).

Description of theme	The main pollutants being targeted are sediment and associated and soil-bound particulate phosphate which end up in surface water through running off agricultural land. Sediment and phosphate loss can be reduced through: • reducing the amount of livestock accessing watercourses • reducing the amount of dirty water and the volume reaching watercourses • improving soil management • promoting awareness of DWPA
Area / holdings to be targeted	Engagement and grant uptake has historically been better in the upper parts of the catchment; grants will therefore initially be targeted at those farms in the upper catchment where they have been unsuccessful with previous applications, or where there has been no engagement. This second phase of targeting will again concentrate on farms that have not been successful with previous grant applications and then those who have not engaged and who are on tributaries that the source apportionment suggests have the largest input from diffuse sources. All sectors of farming in the Mease catchment are to be targeted and especially those farms over 10 hectares.
CSF Capital Grant Scheme (CGS) items to be deployed	CSF003 Watercourse fencing CSF010 Livestock drinking trough with associated pipe work (linked to CSF003) to reduce amount of sediment/phosphate entering watercourses via livestock dunging and hooves CSF007 Hard bases for livestock drinkers and feeders to reduce poaching and in turn run-off of phosphate/sediment CSF012 Sediment ponds and traps to reduce amount of sediment/phosphate entering watercourses CSF014 Yard works for clean and dirty water separation to make it easier for farmers to separate clean and dirty water, to reduce volume of dirty water entering watercourses; dirty water stores or slurry lagoons CSF015 Piped culverts in ditches to take water under bridge or track and reduce run-off containing sediment and phosphate CSF016 Resurfacing of gateways to reduce flooding and soil compaction and thus reduce soil erosion and run-off of phosphate/sediment CSF017 Rainwater storage tanks, first flush diverters and downpipe filters to reduce amount of clean water mixing with dirty water, thus reducing volume of dirty water entering watercourses; dirty water stores or slurry lagoons CSF021 Livestock and machinery tracks & associated fencing to reduce poaching and soil erosion on other parts of field, thus

		reducing run-off
	CSF023	Roofing of manure storage and livestock gathering areas to reduce amount of clean water mixing with dirty water, thus reducing volume of dirty water entering watercourses; dirty water stores or slurry lagoons

Catchment 2

Catchment where grants will be offered	**Catchment 21: Yorkshire Derwent**
Rationale for offering grant	The River Derwent SSSI and SAC are not achieving favourable condition partly due to sediment but also due to other non-DWPA reasons. This is a large catchment, 1936km^2, with the SAC forming the lower part of the catchment. The current Capital Grant Scheme (CGS) target area sits upstream of the SAC and over the past couple of years has had a good uptake of grants. Given the large area draining into the SAC the Land Management team responsible for the site were consulted on where they felt the limited number of grants available could be targeted to give the best results. Grants will therefore be targeted at a small number of known farms where it is considered they will have a significant effect on reducing sediment loss from that farm.
Description of theme	Sediment reduction via: • Clean and dirty water separation in farm yards • Watercourse fencing, alternative stock watering arrangements • Resurfacing gateways • New farm tracks
Area / holdings to be targeted	Grants to be offered to selected mixed, livestock and arable riparian holdings with good connectivity and high risk of sediment contamination to SAC.

CSF Capital Grant Scheme (CGS) items to be deployed	CSF003 Watercourse Fencing (reduced poaching and bank side erosion) CSF010 Livestock troughs and associated pipework (avoid stock accessing watercourses) CSF012 Sediment traps (capture of sediment from runoff) CSF014 Yard works for clean and dirty water separation. (sediment reduction around farm buildings) CSF016 Resurfacing of gateways (reducing poaching around heavily trafficked gateways) CSF021 Livestock and machinery tracks (reduce sediment pathway risk from field to watercourse)

Catchment 3

Catchment where grants will be offered	**Peak District Dales, River Wye**
Rationale for offering grant	The Wye Valley SSSI forms part of the Peak District Dales SAC. Units 70 and 71, the river units, are currently classed as unfavourable no change due to phosphate. The SSSI phosphate target is 0.04mg/l but the latest water quality monitoring shows a level of 0.07mg/l. The high level of phosphate is partly due to sewage works but agriculture is also considered to make a significant contribution. The SSSI responsible officer has requested grants be targeted at specific farms to help reduce phosphate levels to reach the SSSI phosphorus (P) target. Most of the SAC catchment is outside of a Capital Grants target area. Based on the Environment Agency (EA) water quality data, and anecdotal information from river users concerning sources of pollution, it has been the intention to begin targeting this area, however, restrictions on amending target areas has meant that it hasn't been possible to do so. There are, therefore, a number of farms that would greatly benefit from infrastructure improvement and which would make a significant difference to water quality.
Description of theme	To reduce the risk of manure and sediment, and therefore phosphate, entering the river units, yard infrastructure and water course fencing will be targeted on dairy, beef and pig farms that produce large quantities of manure.

Area / holdings to be targeted	Holdings that are very close to the SSSI river units
CSF Capital Grant Scheme (CGS) items to be deployed	CSF002 Water gates CSF003 Watercourse fencing CSF004 Fencing for buffer strips, marshes, wet grassland etc CSF008 Pasture pumps and associated pipework CSF010 Livestock drinking trough with associated pipework CSF014 Yard works for clean and dirty water separation CSF017 Rainwater storage tanks CSF021 Livestock and machinery tracks and associated livestock fencing CSF023 Roofing of manure storage and livestock gathering areas CSF026 Roofs for slurry and silage stores These items are the most suitable for reducing organic phosphate pollution from the following: • Foul runoff from outdoor feeding areas, silage clamps, yards and cattle tracks • Direct deposition from stock entering streams • Soil loss with phosphate attached from stream banks from stock poaching stream banks • Soil loss from stock poaching of fields by cattle movement • Losses of clean roof water suitable for watering stock that would become contaminated foul water from out-door yards.