



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2013 – March 2014

River Basin District: South West Catchment: Taw/ Torridge

Total Catchment Area: 925km² Target Area: 246km²

Reasons for designation

The Taw-Torridge catchment drains into the estuary that includes a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). Other conservation designations within this area include the North Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Britain's first UNESCO site, The Biosphere Reserve.

The River Torridge is notable for the presence of nationally important populations of freshwater pearl mussel.

The catchment influences a number of bathing waters and directly impacts on the estuarine bathing waters at Instow. Other bathing beaches being influenced by, but beyond the direct flow from the catchment, such as Westward Ho!, Saunton Sands, Croyde Bay and Combe Martin, have been heavily targeted through previous CSF/ EA campaigns.

A Drinking water Protected Area, failing due to pesticides (mainly grassland herbicides), has been identified within the Barnstaple Yeo on Taw just south of Combe Martin. This is outside the areas partners are currently working on and would require a different set of capital grant items to address the problems.

The main emphasis of the continued project will focus on the achievement of Good Ecological Status in the water bodies within the upper reaches of the catchment where evidence suggests poor water chemistry quality, attributable to phosphate, and low biology status also associated with sedimentation, are the primary causes of concern.

Priorities (Good Ecological Status)

	2012 Status Potential	2012 status driving	Reason for Failure Summary/ CSF Priority
PULWORTHY BROOK	Poor	Phytobenthos	Diffuse Source - Agriculture and Land Management Practices
WALDON	Moderate	Ammonia, Phosphate	Diffuse Source - Agriculture and Land Management Practices
COOKBURY STREAM	Moderate	Phytobenthos, Fish	Diffuse Source - Agriculture and Land Management Practices
WAGAFORD WATER	Moderate	Phosphate, Ammonia (Phys-Chem)	Diffuse Source - Agriculture and Land Management Practices,
DALCH	Moderate	Phosphate, Fish	Diffuse Source - agriculture and land management practices,
UPPER TAW	Moderate	Phosphate, Fish	Diffuse Source - agriculture and land management practices, Physical Modification - Barriers to fish
WHITELEIGH WATER	Moderate	Copper, Fish	Diffuse Source - Abandoned Metal Mines. Good but declining P due to agriculture.
SHEEPWASH & SHEBBEAR	Moderate	Phosphate, Fish	Diffuse Source - agriculture and land management practices,

Objectives

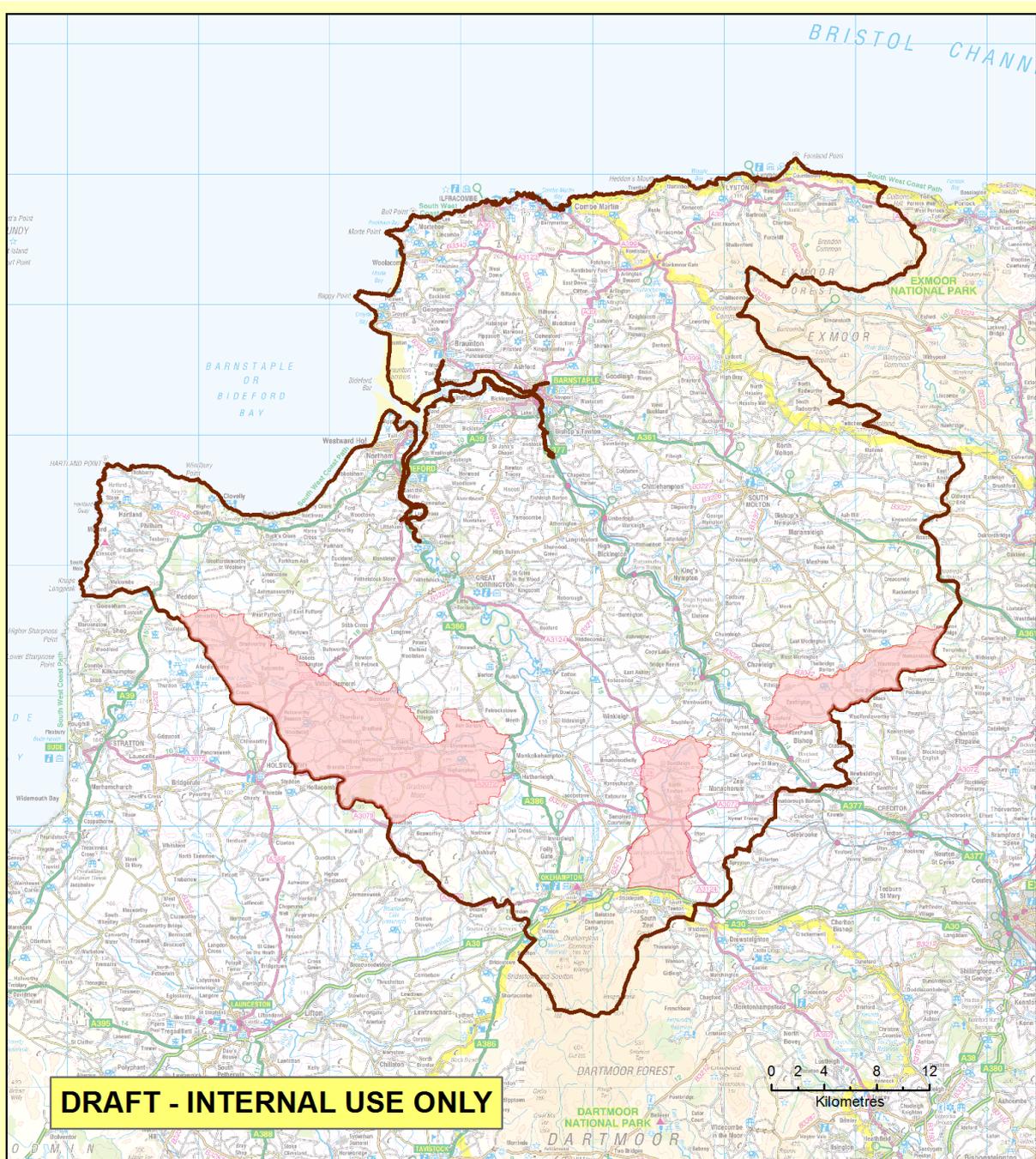
- Reduce sediment and soil phosphate loss from agriculture by encouraging better soil husbandry, particularly in grassland and enhanced livestock management.
- Improve manure management and better incorporate the timing and spreading of manures with co-ordinated fertiliser inputs
- Reduce the direct access by livestock to open streams and rivers
- Reduce the connectivity between land and surface water and the enhancement of manure storage efficiency by yard infrastructure and track improvements.
- Raise awareness of pesticide failures within the drinking water protection area

Delivery

Upper Tributaries confronting Good Ecological Status – Support the delivery of the capital grant scheme and training to encourage infrastructural improvement, livestock management and holistic fertilizer application to: reduce the source of phosphate and sediment pollutants; interrupt the pathway for their movement to waterbodies; protect and buffer the receiving waterbodies from direct pollution and to mop up remaining leaking pollutants through enhanced riparian management.

Source Protection Zones – undertake a workshop within the drinking water protection area raising awareness of the pesticide problems and introduce measures to deal with it.

Targeting Map



Legend

- Ca_E_TawTorrige_CGS_TA_2014_15_Draft_v1
- CSF Catchment Partnerships 2011-2014 © EA

Scale (at A4): 1:400,000

Map produced by Graham Murray,
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