

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: Anglia Catchment: River Nar Total Area: 277km²

Reasons for designation

The River Nar is a SSSI in unfavourable no change condition, one of the reasons for this is Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture (DWPA). There are also failing Drinking Water Protected Areas within the Catchment.

Priorities

SSSI – River Nar in unfavourable no change condition, partly attributable to diffuse pollution from agriculture/run-off. The river Nar is a chalk river, which is a BAP habitat, and is suffering due to sediment ingress and associated high phosphate levels.

Drinking Water Protected Area (Groundwater) – Marham borehole, elevated nitrates Drinking Water Protected Area (Surface) – Upstream of Marham. Nitrate approaching permissible limit, pesticides >0.1 micrograms/l (metaldehyde, chlorotoluron)

Objectives

- Reduce the loss of sediment, and associated soil-bound phosphate particles through appropriate changes in land management following provision of advice or use of Environmental Stewardship schemes, Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship management options.
- Reduce sources of nitrate and pesticide leaching to groundwater and run-off to surface waters by promoting adoption of best practice measures.

Delivery

Advice on nutrients will be targeted to holdings which lie upstream of Pentney and in the vicinity of Marham borehole. Workshops and one-to-one farm visits will focus on producing and reviewing Nutrient Management Plans to reduce excess nitrate available for leaching, particularly on those in the area of the Source Protection Zone and holdings in the upper catchment.

Advice on soil management will be available to the whole catchment. Workshops and one-to-one farm visits will be available, addressing soil management practices to reduce losses of sediment and associated phosphate.

Best practice pesticides advice will be available to the whole catchment, particularly with regard to installing biobeds and slug pellet applicator accuracy.

CSF Capital Grant and advice on Environmental Stewardship options, including Entry Level Stewardship resource protection options and Higher Level Stewardship where appropriate, will be available to holdings throughout the target areas.

Targeting Map

