



# A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

## Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 - March 2014

**River Basin District: Anglian**

**Catchment: Little Ouse (SE)**

**Total Area: 564 km<sup>2</sup>**

### Reasons for designation

The Little Ouse Catchment area was originally chosen by DEFRA under the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative (ECSFDI) as one of the 40 highest priority catchments in England where diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA) was considered to contribute to poor water quality in rivers and ground waters. Due to its large size the catchment has been subdivided into two sub-catchments: North West and South East. Water quality issues within the Little Ouse South East sub-catchment include elevated nitrates and phosphates in surface waters, localised sedimentation problems and high nitrates and pesticides in groundwaters.

### Priorities

#### 1. Failing Drinking Water Protected Areas for WFD

##### Safeguard Zone 1:

- |                                             |                                      |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Anglian Water boreholes at Riddlesworth -   | Failing Nitrate and pesticide levels |
| Anglian Water borehole at Two Mile Bottom - | Failing Nitrate levels               |
| Anglian Water borehole at Nunnery Lodge -   | Failing Nitrate levels               |
| Cambridge Water borehole at Brettenham -    | Failing Nitrate levels               |
| Cambridge Water borehole at Euston -        | Failing Nitrate levels               |

##### Safeguard Zone 2:

Anglian Water boreholes at Risby - Increasing Nitrate trend and pesticides detected.

2. Remaining Phase 2 target area where surface waters failing WFD where RFF exercise identified likely cause of failure as DWPA.

### Objectives

- Reduce sources of nitrate and pesticide leaching to groundwater via promotion of:
  - best practice measures relating to use of fertilisers, manures and pesticides
  - good soil management
  - best practice relating to outdoor pig enterprises
- Reduce sediment (and associated phosphate and pesticide) losses to surface waters via promotion of good soil structure management and regular soil & manure testing

**Delivery – Planned advice and training delivery** - 1:1 delivery Soil Management, Crop Nutrient Management, Manure application techniques and timing, Livestock/manure, infrastructure: Best practice training through workshops, & use of CSF Capital Grant scheme. All landowners to receive signposting to additional Environmental Stewardship advice where appropriate.

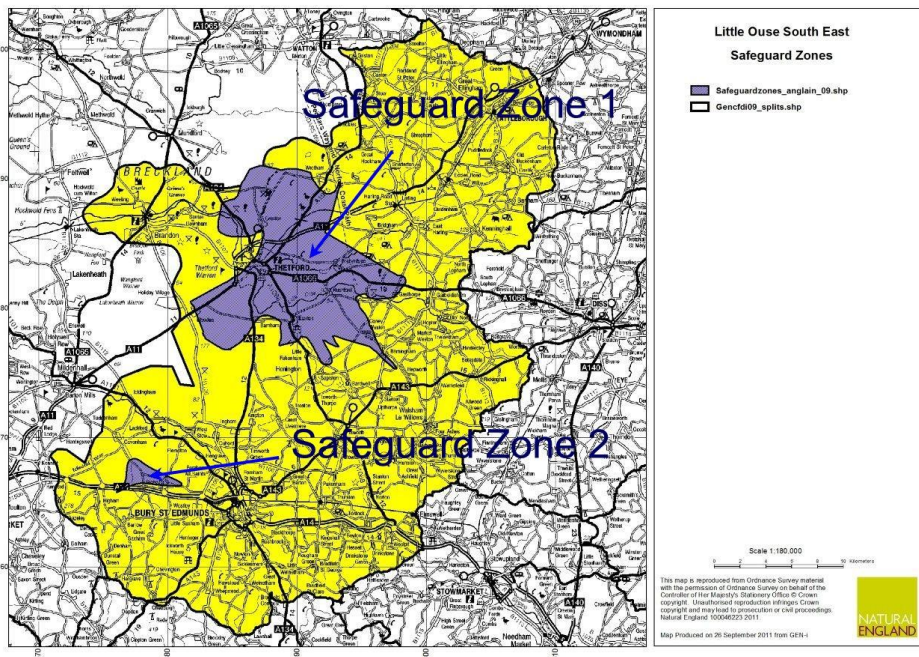
**Targeted at Protected Area** DWPA Groundwater Safeguard Zone around Nunnery Lodge, Two Mile Bottom, Euston and Brettenham boreholes to address Nitrate pressures.

**Protected Area** DWPA Groundwater Safeguard Zone around Risby and Riddlesworth boreholes to address Nitrates & Pesticides - **Planned advice and training delivery** - as above plus pesticide handling solutions including biobeds.

**Protected Area** Blo' Norton and Thelnetham Fens SSSIs and Protected areas part of Little Ouse headwaters SAC to address Nitrate & Phosphate pressures - **Planned advice and training delivery** - as above with awareness raising/technical information provision.

**Protected Area** Remainder of target area - WFD Good Ecological Status - where- Bad – moderate. pesticides in groundwaters to address Nitrate, phosphate and pesticides - **Planned advice and training delivery** - as above plus pesticide handling solutions including biobeds.

**Little Ouse (SE) Safeguard Zones**



**Little Ouse (SE) Target Area**

