

# Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

### River Basin District: Humber Catchment: River Eye Total Area

Total Area: 182km<sup>2</sup>

#### **Reasons for designation**

The River Eye is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because it represents an excellent example of a semi-natural lowland river. Sediment, and the phosphate that it carries, have an adverse effect on the site and are a major reason for the site not being in favorable condition. Phosphate loading apportionment indicates that the majority of the phosphate reaching the river comes from sources other than sewage treatment works, i.e. from agriculture. Two large silt traps built to try and partially mitigate the problem have already been cleared of accumulated silt after less than ten years in use, which illustrates the volume of sediment involved.

#### **Priorities**

SSSI – River Eye

## Objectives

- Reduce the loss of sediment, and associated soil-bound phosphate, to surface water through appropriate changes in land management.
- Reduce the loss of phosphate and other nutrients from livestock farming through appropriate changes in management and raising awareness in the sector.
- Reduce the phosphate concentration in the river to less than 0.06mg/l.

#### Delivery

The main aim of delivery in the catchment is to maintain the changes in farming practice and the resulting improvements in water quality that have been achieved since 2006.

- Offer summer farm walk event and continue with successful theme of soil husbandry.
- One to one advice to individuals who did not receive this soil husbandry advice in previous campaigns.
- Broaden training and advice to include other issues such as linkage with environmental stewardship and silt trap construction.
- Seek to develop events with other partner organisations such as research centres and the levy bodies.
- Develop opportunities for facilitating and maintaining farmer networking within catchment to transfer ideas and experience particularly with regard to soil management in the arable sector.

