

# Ribble Priority Catchment Summary March 2011 – March 2014

## River Basin District: North West Catchment: River Ribble To

Total Area: 691km<sup>2</sup>

## Reasons for designation

The Ribble Catchment was selected as a priority catchment in Phase 1 (2006) due to risk of failing to meet Good Ecological Status under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). By Phase 3 (2011) the priority for the Ribble was to include addressing Bathing and Shellfish Waters.

#### **Priorities**

**Bathing Water** – Southport, St Annes Pier, St Annes North and Blackpool South are projected to fail the revised Bathing Water Directive (rBWD)

**Shellfish Water** – Ribble Shellfish Waters all failed to achieve the guideline standard for faecal coliform in flesh in 2010 and 2011

Where there is overlap with the above priorities, CSF will also help to address:

**Water Framework Direcive** (WFD) waterbodies failing to achieve Good Ecological Status South Fylde Drains (SFDs): failing due to nutrients, sediment, poor invertebrate diversity River Loud: failing due to sediment, nutrients, and poor biology. River Douglas: failing due to nutrients, sediment, and poor biology.

There are no SSSIs failing due to diffuse water pollution from agriculture (DWPA) in the Ribble catchment.

# Objectives

- Increase understanding of soil issues and management techniques to improve soil structure, and reduce run-off from the land surface.
- Increase awareness of DWPA, focusing on better manure/slurry management by:
  - Encouraging installation of adequate manure and slurry storage to prevent manure applications to fields during unsuitable times.
  - Promoting more efficient ways of applying manures to maximise nutrient uptake and reduce run-off.
  - Promoting better understanding of nutrient management planning to improve the efficient use of fertiliser and manure to meet crop need.
- Promote the improvement of farm yard infrastructure to improve clean and dirty water separation and risk of run-off to water courses
- Encourage livestock practices which reduce the sediment and FIO input.
- Promote exclusion of livestock from watercourses

# Delivery

Training to be delivered in the Ribble catchment from 2012-2014:

- Nutrient Management Planning
- Infrastructure Planning
- Slurry, Manure and Nutrient Management Planning
- Improved Soil Husbandry & Water Management
- Manure Handling & Storage Improvements
- Workshops will be used to raise awareness of local issues and inform farmers of best practice that they may implement of their farms to reduce DWPA

# **Catchment Map**

