

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: Severn Total Area: 1313 km²

Catchment: River Teme

Reasons for designation

The River Teme is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and is the second largest tributary of the River Severn. Otters are widespread from the upper reaches of the Teme down to Tenbury Wells, and evidence of them has been found only a few miles from the confluence with the Severn, suggesting that most of the Teme is used. The upper reaches have many common sandpiper pairs, together with dipper. Sand martin colonies can be found in many of the eroding river banks. The fish community has long been recognised as being important, with salmon, grayling and brown trout on the upper reaches, and records occurring of the rare twaite shad. The lower and deeper waters support good numbers of chubb and barbel. The Teme has a good population of Atlantic stream crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*. The extensive shingle shoals hold a particularly interesting rare riffle beetle community.

The River Rea is part of the Teme catchment and confluences with the Teme between Rochford and Newham at SO636 685. There are issues with nitrate, phosphate, sediment, pesticides (including metaldehyde) within the Rea subcatchment. It is therefore imperative that diffuse pollution in the Rea is corrected to reduce the effects downstream. These include effects both on the SSSI and also on the drinking water abstractions at Mythe and Strensham.

The River Clun is also a very important tributary of the Teme. In the lower reaches, from Marlow Bridge to Leintwardine, the river Clun contains an aging population of freshwater pearl mussels and is a Special Area of Conservation, as well being an extension of the Teme SSSI. There are issues with nitrate, phosphate, sediment and pesticides (including metaldehyde) within the Clun catchment. All of these pollutants are potentially harmful to Fresh Water Pearl Mussels. The mussel belongs to a group of animals known as mulluscs and since metaldehyde is a mulluscicide, we should adopt a precautionary principle and assume that it could have a detrimental effect on the mussels where detected in river water.

The Teme is also a Drinking Water Protected Area, with drinking water intakes downstream at Mythe and Strensham.

Priorities

CSF will target three sub-catchments in the Rea and continue work in the upper Clun, (see map below), to reduce diffuse water pollution from

agriculture (DWPA). DWPA is a cause of unfavourable condition for the SSSI and SAC. The Drinking Water Protection Area is at risk of failure due to nitrate and pesticides.

Objectives

- Reduce the loss of sediment, and associated and soil-bound phosphate particles through appropriate changes in land management practices
- Reduce inputs of fertiliser through improved analysis, calibration techniques and application techniques to reduce leaching to groundwater and run-off to surface waters
- Reduce inputs of pesticides in order to protect surface and sub-surface waters through promotion of correct calibration techniques, washing techniques and suitable disposal of washings.
- Reduce inputs of metaldehyde through promoting Metaldehyde Stewardship Group application rates and practices and use of alternatives.

Delivery

Target 353 farms in the target sub-catchments for Diffuse Water Pollution workshop.

Farms will be encouraged to sign up for:

- 1. Whole Farm Plan visits and Infrastructure Audits
- 2. Nutrient Management Plan and soil manure/slurry testing
- 3. Slurry/manure handling one-to-one sessions
- 4. Pesticides handling and application training
- 5. Fertiliser spreader or pesticide sprayer free calibration and testing.

Farms will be visited to discuss Diffuse Water Pollution. The Capital Grant Scheme and Agri-Environment Schemes will be used to deliver resource protection. Resource protection measures under ELS should be considered and where applicable encouraged to reduce inputs and soil sediment losses

Targeting Map

