



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2015

River Basin District: South East Catchment: Pevensey Total Area: 211 km²

Reasons for designation

The Pevensey catchment stretches from Dallington, in the North, to Pevensey Bay, in the South, covering an area of 80 Sq. Miles. The landscape varies from river valleys and woodlands in the High Weald, to the flatter, more expansive marshes of the Pevensey Levels.

The catchment is made of 3 broad hydrological units which comprise the Pevensey Levels, where water flow is controlled by a network of pumps and sluices, the Wallers Haven, a fairly 'naturally functioning' river, and Coombe Haven, another naturally functioning river but with an increased sensitivity to rainfall.

The catchment has surface and groundwater drinking water abstraction points and the Levels are designated as both a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a RAMSAR site. These were designated due their low-lying grazing meadows which are intersected by a complex system of ditches. These ditches support a variety of important wetland communities, including nationally rare and scarce aquatic plants and invertebrates. The site also supports a notable assemblage of breeding and wintering wildfowl. As an illustration of this, the Marshes often support more than 1% of the British population of wintering lapwings on an annual basis.

The area has been awarded Catchment Sensitive Farming status primarily due to the risk of livestock manures and effluent from entering bathing waters at Pevensey Bay. Other associated risks include invasive aquatic plant species (in particular Floating Pennywort), Abstraction & flow regimes and inputs from treatment works.

Priorities

- Faecal Indicator Organisms (FIOs) in Bathing Water Protected Area.
- Nitrate in Ground Water Protected Area (GWPA).
- Phosphate in surface water.

Objectives

Reduce risk of Faecal Indicator Organisms from entering bathing water by:

- Assisting farmers to prevent farmyard manures and slurry from entering water courses by addressing farm infrastructure to improve clean and dirty water separation from yards and reduce run off from yards and muck heaps.
- Improving understanding and best practice of manure use, storage and application.

Reduce inputs of nitrate from entering water by:

- Improve understanding and promote best practice in nutrient planning and application to prevent nitrate leaching to ground water.
- Addressing yard infrastructure to improve clean and dirty water separation from yards.

Reduce the levels of phosphate from entering water bodies on soil particles by:

- Promoting best practice to aid understanding of and implement measures to prevent soil erosion, compaction and run-off.
- Encouraging the use of Environmental Stewardship resource protection options where appropriate.

A range of 1:1 range, group events and site visits will be offered including:

- Farm infrastructure farm walks.
- Soil husbandry events.
- 1:1 Farm infrastructure Audits.
- 1:1 Whole farm appraisals.
- 1:1 Soil husbandry training.
- 1:1 Nutrient management planning.

These services will be supported by an annual Capital Grants Scheme and regular updates through Catchment Newsletters. Activity will also be undertaken taken with Natural England Land Management advisers to ensure that resource protection options within Environmental Stewardship are used to reduce diffuse water pollution where appropriate.

Targeting Map

