



## Green Futures for Farmers - River Leam & Upper Avon

Aim:

Partnership delivery to restore natural processes, improve water quality and flood resilience across the R Leam & Upper Avon



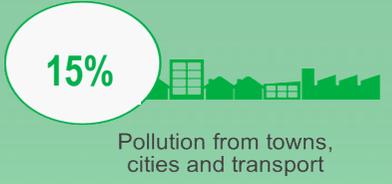
Nicola Edgar  
Warwickshire Avon Catchment Coordinator



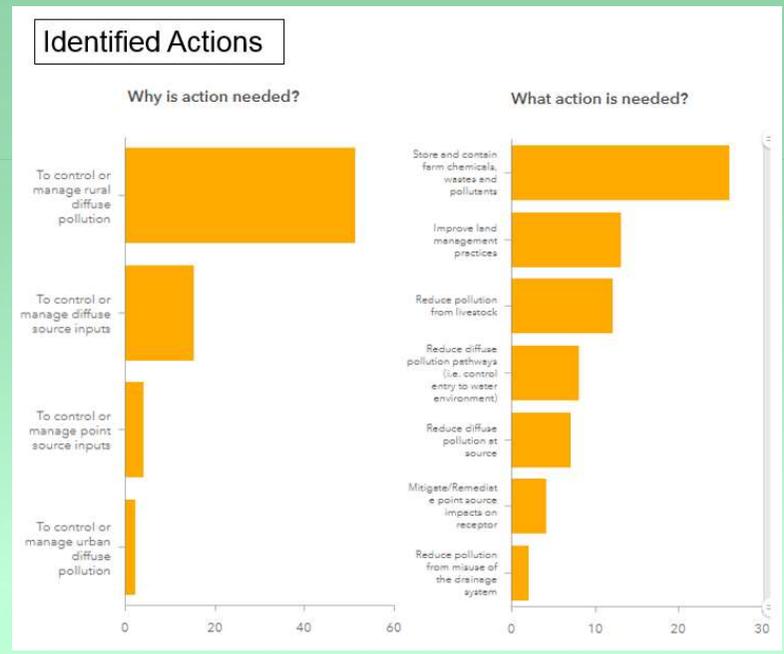
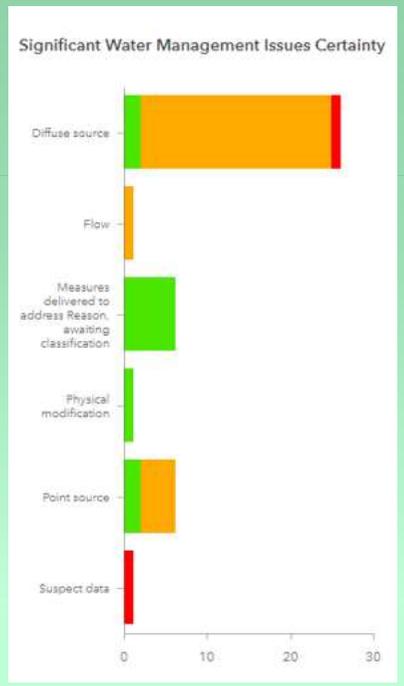


# West Midlands – Reasons for Not Achieving Good

West Midlands  
(March 2019)



R Leam  
(February 2021)



\* % of water bodies impacted by each pressure





# Nutrient Management - Prioritisation

- Use of tools to support targeted delivery.
- **Local knowledge – wider engagement for opportunities.**

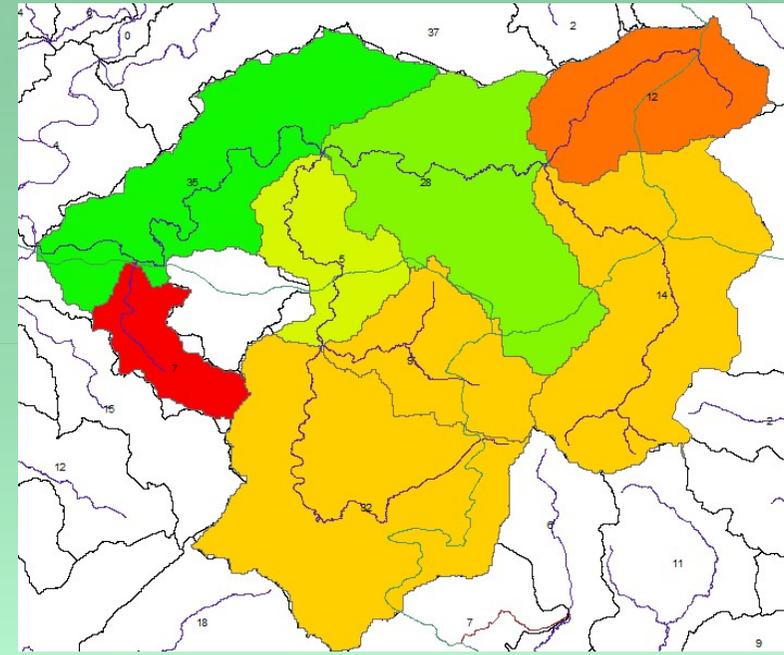
## Nutrient Management

Value in organic waste – applying to the land at the right time improves nutrient inputs and cuts the costs of bagged fertilisers. It also improves soils.

**Think Soils**

Soil problems:

- Gulleys
- Ponding
- Brown water runoff
- Compaction



\* Ones in Red are waterbodies where the remaining Phosphate load is low – Rains & Radford and upper reaches.





# Water Environment Improvement Fund

**Landscape** scale land use change or restore habitats. Increase roughness and infiltration. Do not require engineering e.g. Tree planting.



**Land management**, increase infiltration and reduce run off and erosion e.g. enhanced buffer strips, improved soils.



**Minor Capital**, small changes in landscape that accumulative can slow the flow e.g. swales and offline ponds.



**Large scale land use change** requiring engineering e.g. large scale wetlands and floodplain re-connection.

Benefits*	Capital Delivery	Comments
	Fencing	Buffer strips & Enhanced buffer strips
	Swales	Improve infiltration and can include deeper sections with vegetation
	Constructed Wetlands	
	Sediment Ponds & Traps	
	Earth Banks & Soil Bunds	Field corners or along buffer strips
	Check dams	Slatted dams in drainage ditches ideally with associated wetlands
	Hedgerow gapping	
	Rainwater goods	
	Rainwater diverters	
	Resurfacing of Gateways	
	Cross Drains	
	Large woody debris	Increase hydraulic roughness and attenuation, ideally mimic nature
	Livestock troughs	
	Tree planting & seeding	Native species and can be used to enhance buffer strips
	Re-connecting flood plain	

Benefits\* - These are broad categories and the actual benefit achieved will depend on design and location of these measures. These should ideally be delivered as a catchment wide approach with the accumulative benefit of multiple interventions.

Key			
High	Medium	Low	Benefit
			Nutrient Management
			NFM
			Water Resources





# Multiple Benefits – Improved Soils

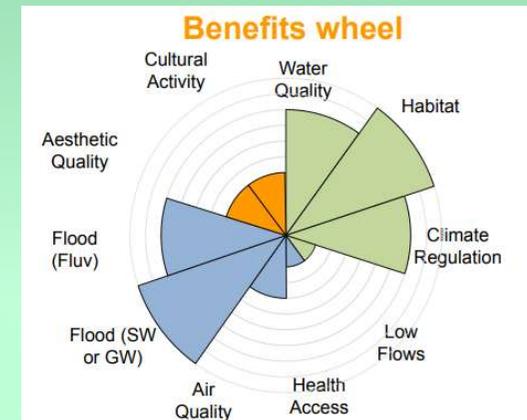


Geoff Harper “ A spade is the most important piece of farm equipment – you can find out what your soil structure is and then improve it.”

Soil is the farmer’s biggest agricultural asset. A healthy soil helps ensure the best returns from every kind of farming. A well-structured soil is less vulnerable to erosion and runoff. This ensures that seeds, fertiliser and pesticides aren’t washed away, and reduces the risk of flooding. Well-managed soils are easier to cultivate and more likely to retain the water that crops need to thrive. Erosion will remove soil, nutrients and organic matter from your land and reduce the depth of your soil. It can also deposit soil on roads and pollute rivers and streams with chemicals and sediment. When you manage your soils well you can reduce the risk of losses and make significant savings in the long term.

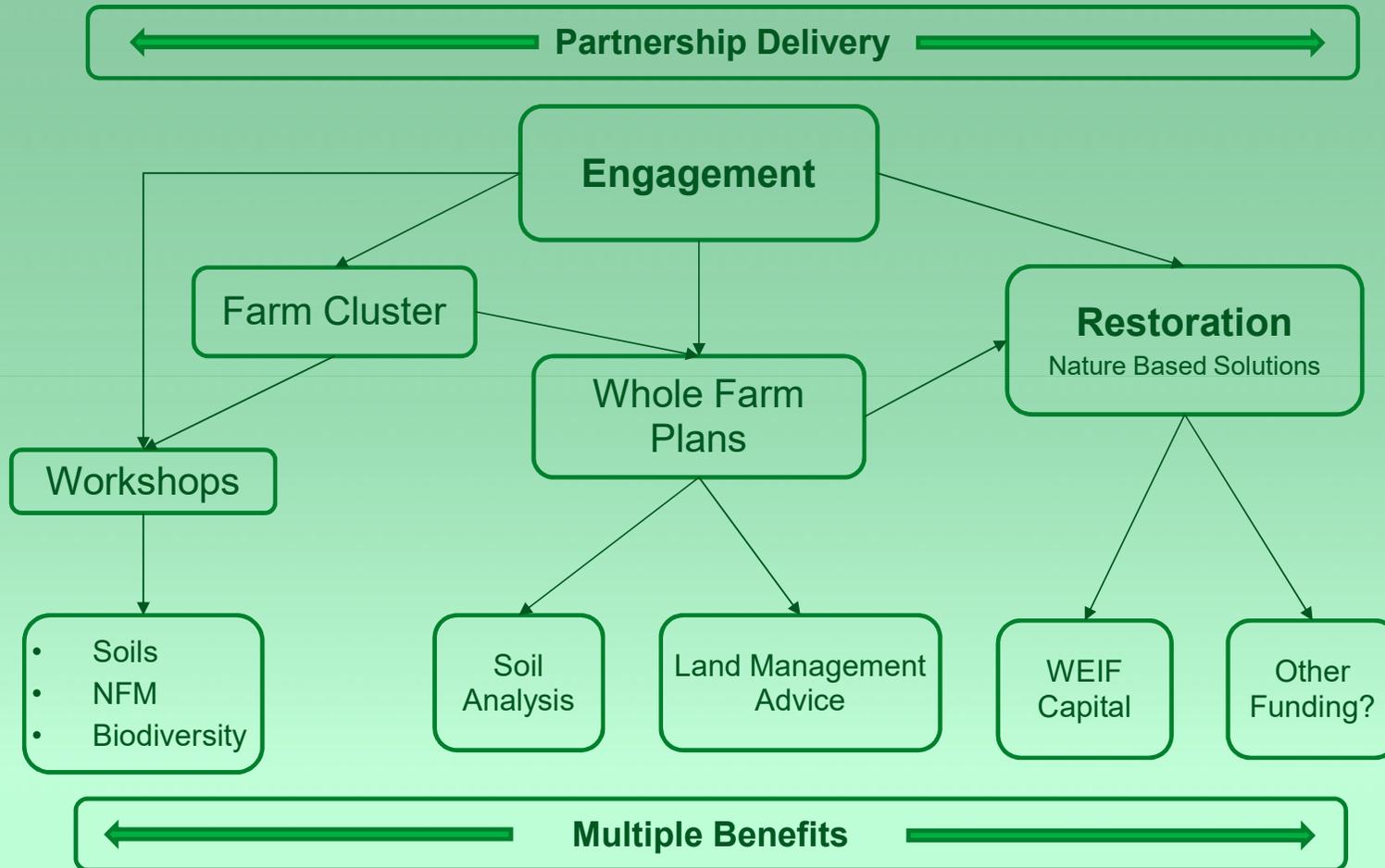
### Counting the cost and reaping the benefits

Farmers can save more than 40 per cent in fertiliser costs by taking nutrients from slurry into account.





# Delivery



# Countryside Stewardship

A young brown deer with large ears stands in the center of a green field, looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus green landscape.

Tips from an adviser

Zoe Bell

[zoecbell@outlook.com](mailto:zoecbell@outlook.com)

07980 771872

# Countryside Stewardship

Higher  
Tier

Mid Tier

Wildlife  
Offers

Capital  
Grants

# How to Choose

- Capital items only
- SSSI, Organic, CSF, Priority Habitats, Lots of capital items
- Simplicity of application process

# Mid Tier Scoring

- Archaeology
- Priority habitats
- Water quality
- Big 3 – Winter food, summer food and nesting habitat
- Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package
- Pick capital items carefully

# Top Tips

- Sort permissions on BPS
- Go digital
- Soil erosion risk
- Keep it simple





# Catchment Sensitive Farming partnership Supporting Countryside Stewardship 2021



**A clear solution  
for farmers**

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

**Working together for a healthy environment**

#### Partners



Department  
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# About us

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is a successful partnership between Defra, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

It works together with farmers and partners in priority areas across England to improve the quality of our water and air.



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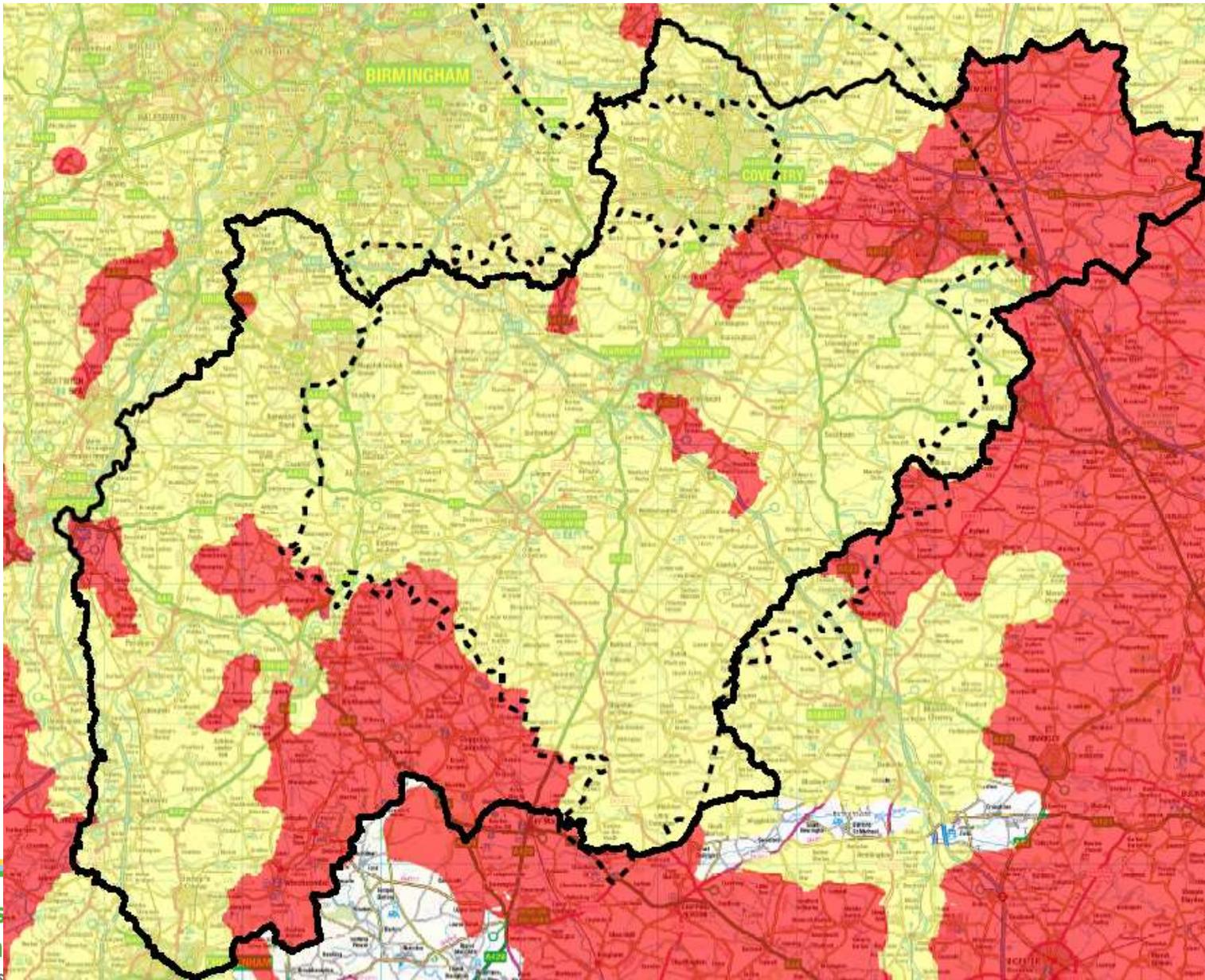
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# Targeting of Air & Water Quality Items

- Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) operates within Water High Priority Areas
- These can be whole catchments, or small areas
- High Priority Areas on Magic (Red)



A clear s  
for farm

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING



## Water High Priority Holdings

Eligible for:

- CSFO advice on Mid Tier / Capital Grant applications
- Full Range of CS options
- CSF 1:1 technical advice

## Other Holdings

- Cannot apply for any item requiring CSFO approval
- All other options available



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# Capital items requiring CSFO approval

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**These options and items** in Mid Tier and Capital Grants **require CSFO approval.**

For the **Capital Grants scheme these are grouped into 3 categories:**

- Boundaries, Trees and Orchards
- Water Quality
- Air Quality

The **maximum total amount** of funding for any application has **increased from £10,000 to £60,000** but there is a **limit of £20,000 for each of the 3 groups.**

Code	Option
RP4	Livestock and machinery hardcore tracks
RP13	Yard - underground drainage pipework
RP14	Yard inspection pit
RP15	Concrete yard renewal
RP17	Storage tanks underground
RP18	Above ground tanks
RP19	First flush rainwater diverters and downpipe filters
RP20	Relocation of sheep dips and pens
RP21	Relocation of sheep pens only
RP22	Sheep dip drainage aprons and sumps
RP23	Installation of livestock drinking troughs (in draining pens for freshly dipped sheep)
RP24	Lined biobed plus pesticide loading and washdown area
RP25	Lined biobed with existing washdown area
RP27	Sprayer or applicator load and washdown area
RP28	Roofing (sprayer washdown area, manure storage area, livestock gathering area, slurry stores, silage stores)
RP29	Self-supporting covers for slurry and anaerobic digestate stores
RP30	Floating covers for slurry and anaerobic digestate stores and lagoons
AQ1	Automatic slurry scraper
AQ2	Low ammonia emission flooring for livestock buildings
TE4	Supply and plant a tree
TE5	Supplement for use of individual tree-shelters



**A call  
for**

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



# Countryside Stewardship

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**Your local CSFO can support some items in high priority areas** for improving water and air quality. Applications should **deliver a broad range of environmental benefits**.

These items are in;

- Mid Tier
- Capital Grants Scheme

## For more information about Countryside Stewardship

- Visit [www.gov.uk/countryside stewardship](http://www.gov.uk/countryside stewardship)
- All Wildlife offers now available online
- Grant finder tool – highlight options, read specifications



**Working together for a healthy environment**

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### Partners

  
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NATURAL  
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# What can CSF offer you? Free 1:1 Farm Advice

- Range of free advice visits open to priority farmers within the Water High Priority areas
- They cover a range of options such as:
  - Soil Management
  - Soil testing & Nutrient Management
  - Farm Infrastructure
  - Water Pathway Management
  - Biobed Design and Management
- Some of these may be used to support Countryside Stewardship applications

## Catchment Sensitive Farming

### Bio-bed and Pesticide Wash-down Design

Farmer name: Robert Roberts  
Farm name and address: Robley Farm, Robley, Rob Marche  
Shropshire, SH1  
Farm CPH number: 394/03033/0350  
Adviser: Sherlock Holmes  
Catchment Officer: Sally Owl  
Catchment Officer Telephone number: 0300 060 0444 / 07770 445037  
Visit reference and date: WM/001/SW/ - 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
Date of report: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015



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# Countryside Stewardship

## Making a good application



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# Things to remember

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- **Capital Items should be practical, cost effective and proportionate** to the size of the problem
- Create an application that is **targeted, comprehensive and supports the aims of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme**
- CSFO will use **Source – Pathway – Receptor** approach
- **Low pollution risk or very indirect connectivity** means we are **likely to be unable to support the application**
- Applications should **deliver a broad range of environmental benefits.**



# Countryside Stewardship

## Next steps



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# 3 easy steps

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1. Use MAGIC <https://magic.defra.gov.uk>
2. Identify right capital items or land management options to address the pollutants and whether they need CSFO approval.
3. If you do need CSFO approval, complete the form on [www.gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming](http://www.gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming) and send to your local CSFO at least 6 weeks before you intend to apply.

**Natural England will not consider request forms that arrive late**

# Key dates

- **Capital Grants**

Send the completed Request for CSFO Support and Approval Form **to your local CSFO by Friday 19 March 2021.**

- The scheme **closes** for applications on **30 April 2021.**

- **Mid Tier**

Send the completed Request for CSFO Support and Approval Form **to your local CSFO by Friday 18 June 2021.**

- The scheme **closes** for applications on **30 July 2021.**

# Any Questions

Contact

**Nicola Jameson**

[Nicola.Jameson@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:Nicola.Jameson@naturalengland.org.uk)



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# Farming for Water

Overview of Water Quality and Biodiversity schemes available at Severn Trent



- Marion Perrett-Pearson

Senior Agricultural Adviser

07970 944834

Marion.Perrett-Pearson@severntrent.co.uk

- Peter Bowman

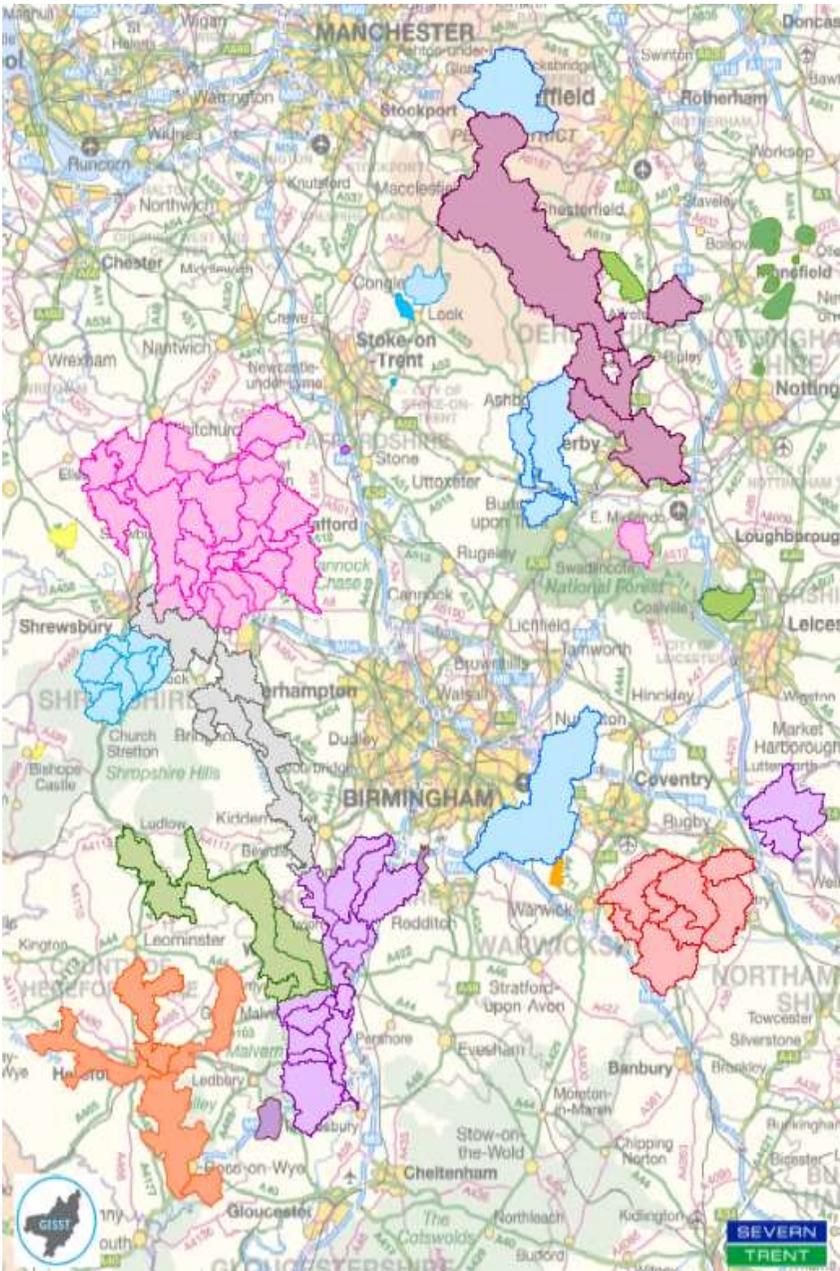
Partnership Agricultural Adviser

07711 169635

Peter.Bowman@severntrent.co.uk



- Farming4water@severntrent.co.uk

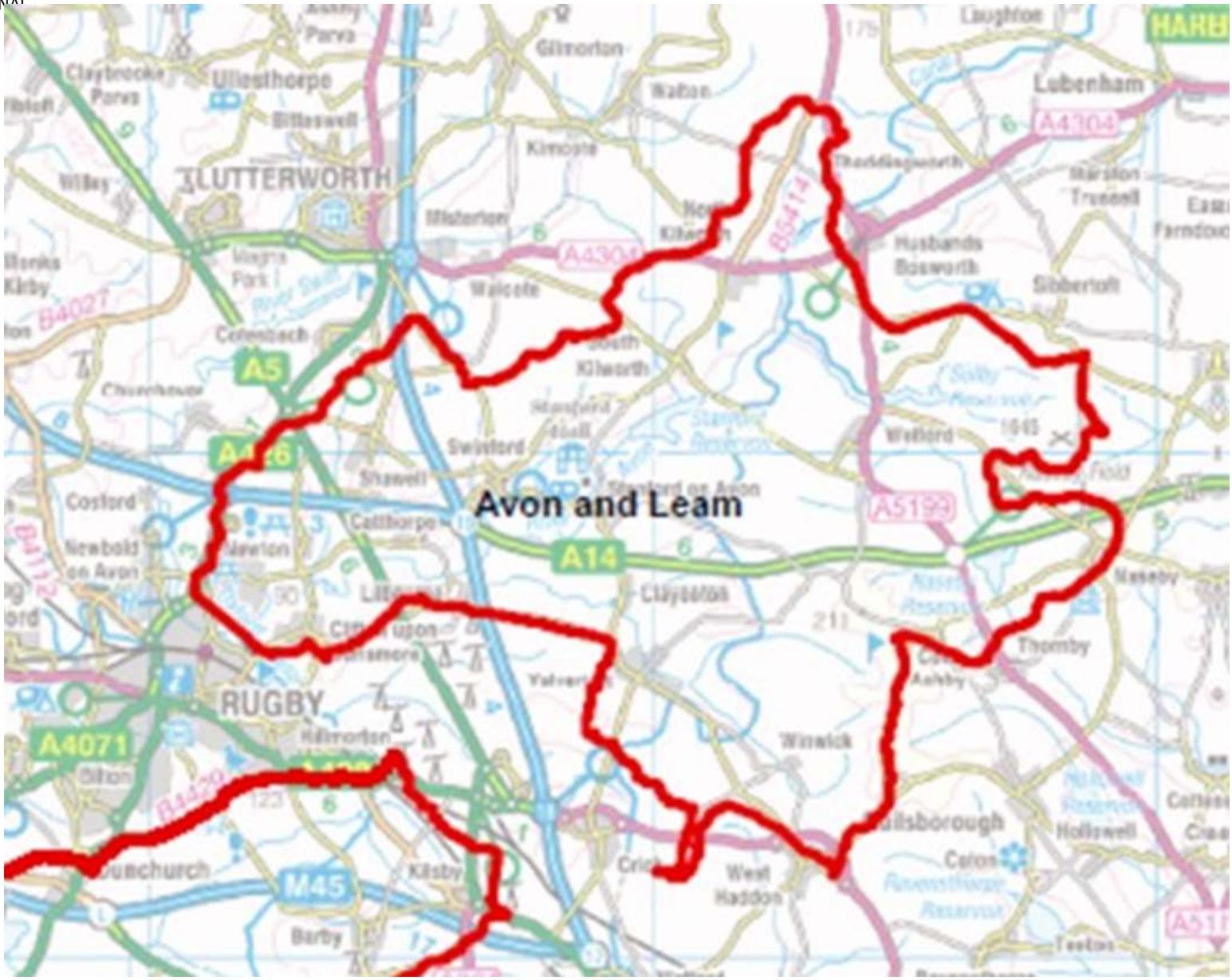


# Farming for Water

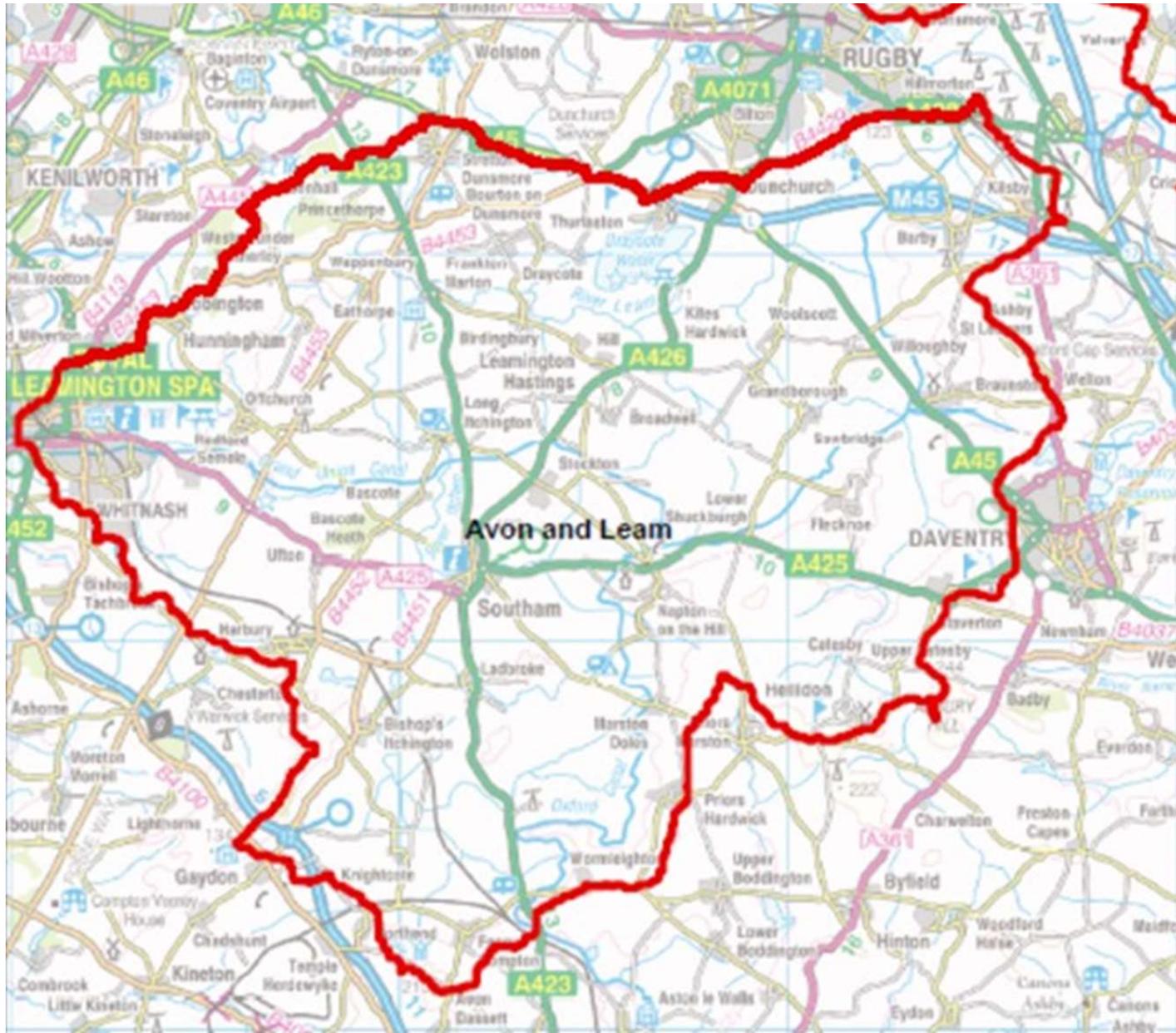
- We work in 44 priority catchments, covering pesticides, cryptosporidium, nitrate, colour, phosphate and biodiversity
- Delivered through 7 STW Agricultural Advisors and 12 partnership advisors
- Severn Trent have:
  - 181 groundwater sources
  - 16 surface treatment works



# Avon



# Leam



# Available schemes

Scheme	Description
Metaldehyde reduction scheme (Farm to Tap)	Payments to reward farmers for improving water quality by reducing metaldehyde use via any means (e.g. use of ferric phosphate pellets, rolling seedbeds etc)
Severn Trent Environmental Protection Scheme (STEPS)	Grants of up to £10,000 per farm to address water quality issues caused by pesticides. These are limited to pesticide washdown areas, arable grass margins and some precision equipment for sprayer cabs to reduce drift and compaction
Biodiversity STEPS	Grants for items to improve biodiversity on farms. Eligible farms need to have successfully applied for pesticide target options in WQ STEPS
Swap My Nozzles	Best practice spraying training and low drift nozzle replacement funding
Pesticide Amnesty	Service to allow arable farmers on the priority catchment to dispose of unused and unwanted pesticides
Specialist on Farm advice	Specialist farm advice visits by external contractors ADAS and Promar these are provided free to the farmer once a WQ application has been successful
PA Training	Pesticide application training (excluding PA1)
Weather station installations	Funding weather stations on farms in each catchments to enable farmers to access local weather data

# Metaldehyde Ban

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Press release

## Restrictions on the use of metaldehyde to protect wildlife

Ban on the outdoor use of metaldehyde introduced to protect wildlife

Published 19 December 2018

From: [Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs](#), [Health and Safety Executive](#), and [The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP](#)



A ban on the outdoor use of metaldehyde, a pesticide used to control slugs in a range of crops and in gardens, is to be introduced across Great Britain from Spring 2020, the Environment Secretary announced today (19 December).

The decision to prohibit the use of metaldehyde, except in permanent greenhouses, follows advice from the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides

- **Metaldehyde was prohibited for outdoor use due to the toxic impacts on small birds and mammals.**
- **We are now in the 18 month use up period**
- **The full ban will come into force in Spring 2022**
  
- At Severn Trent we have been working with farms for the past 5 years through our metaldehyde schemes to promote sustainable use and alternative control methods.
  
- Results from the 2020 scheme are still being analysed and these will be sent to farmers signed up along with payments later in February
  
- Surface catchments will have one last metaldehyde scheme running in Autumn 2021 during the transition period.

# Soil Health Improvement Project (Avon Catchment)

- Aim to create a case study showing how healthy soils lead to healthy plants which are not weakened by nutrient deficiencies and imbalances and are less prone to attack by pests or diseases.
- Varying cultivation type, fertiliser type and with/without a biostimulant and measuring the reduction in required PPPs.
- Events and plot walk-overs are planned for late Spring.





The poster features a dark teal header with the text 'SEVERN TRENT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SCHEME' in white, bold, uppercase letters, and 'STEPS options list' in a smaller white font below it. The central image shows a green tractor with red implements working in a field of dark brown soil under a cloudy sky. At the bottom, there is a dark teal footer containing the text 'Applications Open 1st November 2018 – 31st January 2019', the slogan 'WONDERFUL ON TAP', and the 'SEVERN TRENT' logo.

## STEPS for water quality

- **Up to £10,000 per farm per year of fixed price items (representing approx. 50% of cost)**
- **Examples of options:**
  - Pesticide wash down area
  - Arable field margins
  - Farmer Precision Technology option
    - e.g. GPS for sprayer (50% of cost up to £5000)
  - **Now closed for applications but we are moving to a year round application window, opening date TBC.**

There will be a limited range of priority water quality STEPS items available, for more info visit [www.stwater.co.uk/steps](http://www.stwater.co.uk/steps)

# Swap my nozzles

- 4 online training events aimed at farmers and spray contractors on spraying best practice due to take place in early February.
- 40 participants per meeting, open for Farm to Tap scheme members.
- So successful and with high interest, there are plans to run another set of sessions in the summer which will be open to all farmers in pesticide priority catchments.
- Advice and help from Chris Tolley of Chris Tolley Agronomy
- Farmers who joined the scheme received a full set of LERAP 3\* or 4\* low drift nozzles for free, and 25% off if you buy a 2nd set
- NRoSo CPD points available



**Farm to Tap**  
working together  
for healthy crops  
and clean water

**Booking  
now open**  
Hurry places  
are limited!

## Swap Your Nozzles! Low Drift Nozzle Exchange scheme

The biggest tool for many farms in crop protection is your crop sprayer and the variety of equipment that goes with it. We know that farmers need all the right tools to do the job. This includes using plant protection products that are needed to grow healthy and sustainable crops.

We want to protect water quality as much as possible at source and we know that simply using low drift nozzles should reduce pesticides reaching watercourses, but sprayer nozzles are far more complicated than that.

So we're delighted to introduce our latest scheme and offer you a chance to sign up to our exclusive online workshops - and the chance to Swap Your Nozzles for FREE!

### Join us from the comfort of your farm office

When you take part you'll receive some great advice and help from our expert Chris Tolley of Chris Tolley Agronomy.

- overview of the environmental, agronomical and financial points around spraying
- how to drive efficiencies, and techniques to consider
- an opportunity to share ideas and experiences on best practice
- if you join the scheme you'll receive a full set of LERAP 3\* or 4\* low drift nozzles for free, and 25% off if you buy a 2nd set
- and claim NRoSo CPD points too.

For eligibility click here (page 2).



Swap your Nozzles workshops will take place on the following dates:

**Tues 2nd Feb:**  
Evening event (18:30-20:30)  
Booking closes on 29th January at 5pm

**Weds 3rd Feb:**  
Aftersnoon event (13:30-16:00)  
Booking closes on 1st February at 5pm

**Fri 5th Feb:**  
Morning event (09:30-noon)  
Booking closes on 3rd February at 5pm

**Fri 12th Feb:**  
Morning event (09:30-noon)  
Booking closes on 10th February at 5pm

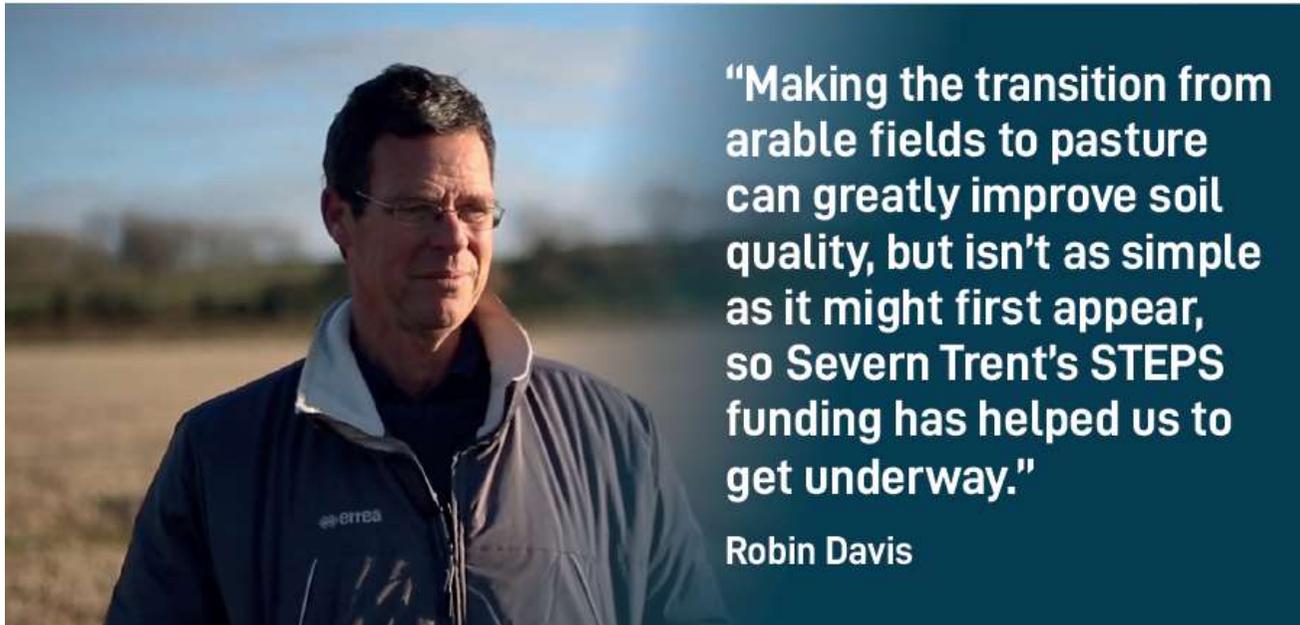
Sessions are limited to 40 delegates. To book a place, simply click the link below and select a time that suits, then we'll send you a registration confirmation and a scheme agreement, including full terms and conditions.

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/SwapYourNozzles@severntrant.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

WONDERFUL ON TAP



## STEPS case study



- To help continue his successful sheep operation, Robin has worked closely with Severn Trent to install over 1,100m of livestock fencing and gates
- “We used a contractor to put in fencing 1.5m either side of two hedged ditches that carry water from the Leam and Itchen. This not only helps keep the flock of 200 North Country Mules safe from the ditches, but also protects against bacteria and nitrates from the sheep entering the watercourse,” he says.
- As a result of this, Robin has been inspired to plant trees inside the fence line to create habitats for other species to inhabit while improving shelter for the sheep.

# STEPS Biodiversity Grants Spring 2021

Application window open 22<sup>nd</sup> March- 18<sup>th</sup> April



**New Hedgerows**



**Woodland Creation**



**Annual Flower Mix**



**Beetle Banks**



**Supplementary Feeding Farmland Birds**



**Herbal Leys**



**Wildflower Margins and Meadows**

# Boost for Biodiversity

## ***For habitat creation or enhancement projects***

- Example activities:
  - Tree and hedgerow planting
  - Invasive Non-Native Species removal
  - Wildflower meadows
  - Wetland or pond creation
  - Woodland management
- Open to anyone in the ST region (*Only farmer group applications – no individual farms*)
- Intended to create landscape scale improvements for biodiversity
- 0.5-30ha
- Annual grant scheme - opening 15<sup>th</sup> March-15<sup>th</sup> April
- Projects have 2 years to be completed
- Assessed against criteria including biodiversity benefit, community benefit, size and cost per hectare
- Funding can be used for capital ‘on the ground’ works and staff time



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

Marion Perrett-Pearson

Senior Agricultural Adviser

Severn Trent

07970 944834

[Marion.Perrett-Pearson@severntrent.co.uk](mailto:Marion.Perrett-Pearson@severntrent.co.uk)

[Farming4water@severntrent.co.uk](mailto:Farming4water@severntrent.co.uk)



Peter Bowman

Partnership Agricultural Adviser

Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

07711 169635

[Peter.Bowman@severntrent.co.uk](mailto:Peter.Bowman@severntrent.co.uk)



[www.stwater.co.uk/about-us/environment/catchment-management](http://www.stwater.co.uk/about-us/environment/catchment-management)