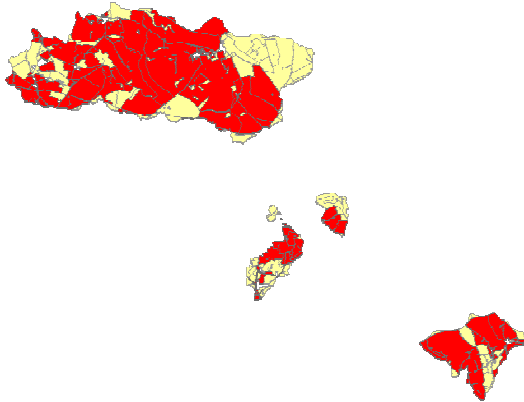




Hampshire Avon  
Demonstration Test Catchment

## FARM BASELINE SURVEYS

A detailed farm baseline survey was carried out in all the target sub-catchments of the Hampshire Avon DTC. This survey was split into two parts: part A and part B.



Part A was a detailed survey carried out in the form of a face-to-face interview between a qualified FACTS farm advisor and the farmer/landowner. This survey covered elements such as land use, crop rotations, stocking rates and fertiliser application rates.

Part B was a questionnaire which was posted to farmers. The questionnaire listed the 83 mitigation measures in the Defra User Guide and asked farmers to detail their current use of these measures on their farm and asked them the likelihood of future use. Some interesting key messages were found from these questionnaires which are highlighted below:

### Map showing percentage coverage of surveys for each target sub-catchment

#### **Present use:**

- 74% of farmers surveyed: “use a fertiliser recommendation system”
- 70% of farmers surveyed: “Cultivate and drill across the slope”
- “Do not apply fertiliser to high-risk areas”
- “Avoid spreading fertiliser to fields at high risk times”
- “Reduce field stocking rates when soils are wet”

#### **Future Use:**

The majority of farmers indicated that they would **never** “establish permanent woodlands”, or “allow drainage systems to deteriorate”.

The majority of farmers also indicated that they were **unlikely** to carry out “arable reversion to low input extensive grazing”, “grow biomass crops”, or “irrigate crops to achieve maximum yield”.

Some farmers were unclear on the terminology used for some measures, particularly the term “riparian”. Others were unclear why opposite measures had been listed and became confused about the benefits of this. For example, “reduce the length of the grazing day/grazing season”, “extend the grazing season for cattle”.

The Hampshire Avon DTC is being led by Professor Adrian Collins from ADAS. The first phase of the project runs until 31st March 2014. For further details please contact:

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If you would like to join the Hampshire Avon DTC and be part of this project, please get in touch. Your local knowledge, experience, expertise and advice will be invaluable in helping to develop the right catchment and farm management solutions for reducing pollution in the Hampshire Avon catchment.

