



# Catchment Fund Handbook

Herbicide options

Autumn 2025



# Bespoke Water Quality Improvement Projects

Alongside the Catchment Fund Thames Water also offers an extra opportunity for funding for activities that will achieve significant, long term water quality improvements, called Bespoke water quality improvement projects.

In this scheme, we're offering the same funding rates as for the Catchment Fund options, but with a contribution from Thames Water of up to £40,000 towards activities which address the most significant risks to water quality in your local catchment in the long term.

Each catchment has specific water quality priorities. Please check if we're looking to reduce herbicides from reaching surface waters or nitrates from reaching groundwater in your area. Your application will need to address the specific water quality priority for your particular catchment.

Please be clear on how the proposed activity will give long term water quality benefits, over at least five years. This scheme is a highly competitive scheme so providing clear information on how the project will benefit the water quality priority in your catchment is really important.

## Who can apply?

We welcome applications from any landowner or farmer who has land in a priority catchment for surface water or groundwater. We ask that you're also willing to share your story of working with Thames Water via our website or other media or literature.

You can only have one successful application for a Bespoke Water Quality Improvement Project per calendar year. This scheme is separate from Thames Water's Catchment Fund; you are welcome to apply for both schemes in the same year.

## How to apply

Contact your local project partner who'll give you an application form and be happy to offer advice and assistance for putting together your application. Please send completed forms to **[catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk)**

Please note that there are a limited number of funding agreements available under this scheme. So remember to include as much information as you can in your application including:

- A detailed explanation of what the activity involves and the benefits it will provide for water quality
- An explanation of how the water quality improvements will be sustained over a minimum of a five-year period
- Details of how you will demonstrate that the water quality benefits have been achieved, such as pesticide/fertiliser use records before and after the proposed activity
- Maps showing your farm/field boundaries, the location of the proposed activity and any local watercourses, ditches, or field drains
- Supporting evidence such as quotations, photos and infrastructure plans



## Contents

|                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction to the Thames Water Catchment Fund.....                | 1  |
| Our team, our priority working areas and our project partners ..... | 2  |
| Who can apply? .....                                                | 4  |
| How does the fund work? .....                                       | 4  |
| Options available.....                                              | 6  |
| Crop and land management.....                                       | 7  |
| Farmyard infrastructure .....                                       | 17 |
| Education.....                                                      | 25 |
| Technical .....                                                     | 27 |
| Priority catchment maps.....                                        | 30 |
| Frequently Asked Questions.....                                     | 50 |
| Terms and Conditions .....                                          | 55 |



# Introduction to the Thames Water Catchment Fund

The water we supply has to meet strict drinking water quality standards, so it's wholesome and fit for consumption.

Diffuse pollution of raw water sources from agricultural herbicides in surface waters and groundwaters is an ongoing problem for many water companies. These compounds are traditionally removed from water through treatment or 'hard' engineering solutions. But this approach is expensive, energy-intensive, and not the most sustainable approach.

So, we've created a Catchment Fund to help farmers in specific priority areas make changes to help protect water sources, go above and beyond legal requirements, and aim for the very best practice. We're offering partial funding towards the costs of eligible activities, up to a total contribution from Thames Water of £15,000. Options include infrastructural changes, land management changes, equipment changes, education and farmer innovation proposals for water-friendly farming. Alongside the fund, we're offering advice from qualified advisors, events, and water quality updates so you can see what's happening in your area.

This catchment management approach is more sustainable and aims to reduce the amount of herbicides reaching water sources in the first place. It also helps to keep them on the farm doing their job and means they don't need to be removed at water treatment works - more efficient for everyone.

The fund is only available in specific areas that are a priority for herbicide pollution within Thames Water's catchment and all the measures available in this handbook are designed to address herbicide pollution.

You can have one successful Catchment Fund application in any single calendar year, and you're welcome to apply to the Catchment Fund again in following years. Please see our separate additional information sheet for details of funding rates and upcoming application windows.

We hope you'll be keen to take part, as keeping water sources clean is a challenge that needs us all to work together for a sustainable solution.

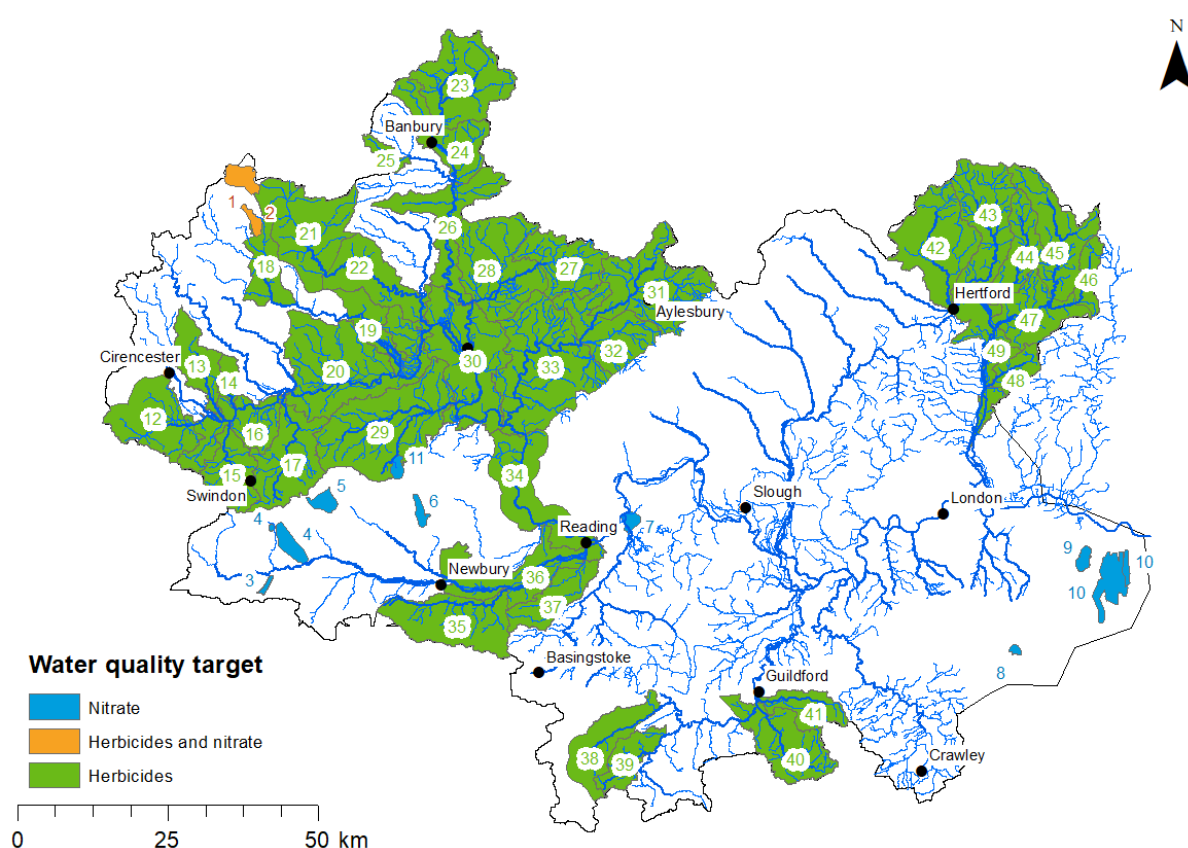
We want to make sure the Catchment Fund protects water and works for farmers too. We welcome feedback for future improvements, so please get in touch with any comments at [catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk)



## Our team, our priority working areas and our project partners

The Catchment Fund is managed and funded by Thames Water, but we use local agricultural partner organisations to provide on-the-ground engagement, farm visits and application support.

The local project partner organisation you'll be supported by depends on where you farm. Use the map below to find out which priority catchment your farm falls into, then check our additional information sheet to find out which project partner is working in your area and how to contact them. More detailed maps of each numbered catchment can be found in the Priority catchment maps section of this handbook (page 30).



If you're unsure if you're located in one of our target catchments, please contact the Thames Water Catchment Projects team using the contact details above with your address and they will check if you are located in a priority catchment area.

| Priority catchment                          | Water quality target   | Catchment type |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Sheafhouse (1)                              | Herbicides and nitrate | Groundwater    |
| Upper Swell (2)                             | Herbicides and nitrate | Groundwater    |
| Source of Thames (12)                       | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Ampney Brook (13)                           | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Marston Meysey Brook (14)                   | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Wiltshire Ray (15)                          | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Key and Thames to Coln (16)                 | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Cole (17)                                   | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Middle Windrush (18)                        | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Lower Windrush (19)                         | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Great Brook and Thames to Farmoor (20)      | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Upper Evenlode (21)                         | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Lower Evenlode (22)                         | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Upper Cherwell (incl. Ashby Brook) (23)     | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Hanwell Brook and Middle Cherwell (24)      | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Tadmarton Stream (25)                       | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Lower Cherwell (26)                         | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Upper Oxon Ray (27)                         | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Lower Oxon Ray (28)                         | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Ock (29)                                    | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Thames to Thame and nearby tributaries (30) | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Upper Thame (31)                            | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Middle Thame (32)                           | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Lower Thame (33)                            | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Thames Wallingford to Reading (34)          | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Enborne (35)                                | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Lower Kennet and Sulham Brook (36)          | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Foudry Brook (37)                           | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| North Wey (38)                              | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Slea and Bucks Horn Stream (39)             | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Cranleigh Waters and Compton Stream (40)    | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Tillingbourne (41)                          | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Beane (42)                                  | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Rib (43)                                    | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Ash (44)                                    | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Upper Stort (45)                            | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Pincey Brook (46)                           | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Lower Stort (47)                            | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Cobbins Brook (48)                          | Herbicides             | Surface water  |
| Lower Lee (49)                              | Herbicides             | Surface water  |

## Who can apply?

To be eligible to apply for the Thames Water Catchment Fund, you must be:

- Aged 18 or over on the date you submit your application
- Farming within a Thames Water priority catchment where at least one of the following applies:
  - Farming any amount of land in a groundwater priority catchment,
  - Farming at least 5ha of land, of which at least some is within the Upper Cherwell catchment
  - Farming at least 5ha of land, of which at least some is arable and within any other surface water priority catchment.
- The landowner, land manager, farmer, tenant, or contractor of the land where the activity is to take place, authorised with all the appropriate consents to carry out the activity and take part in the scheme
- Proposing a project activity to benefit water quality on land within the Thames Water priority area

Applications can be submitted by a third party on behalf of the landowner. These applications must include confirmation that the landowner's permission has been obtained.

## How does the fund work?

The Catchment Fund offers farmers, land managers and contractors financial support for tailored solutions that help tackle diffuse and point source water pollution. Here's how the process works:

### 1 Check whether you farm in a Thames Water priority area

The Catchment Fund is currently only available in specific areas where we see the greatest water quality challenges. To see if you're in a priority area, check the catchment maps in our Priority catchment maps section (page 30) your local project partner (details can be found on the additional information sheet) or our Catchment Projects team using the contact details above.

### 2 Choose your options

Read through the options available and select those most suitable to your farm. We encourage you to speak with our project partner to choose the best options to protect your local water source.

### 3 Make your application

Submit your application by the deadline (see additional information sheet). Applications can be submitted any time before the deadline, and we may get in touch with you to discuss your application, but the full review process will start once the application window has closed.

Application forms can be requested from your local project partner or the Thames Water Catchment Projects team, using the details on page 1.

Our local project partner in your area can help you with the application process and offer advice about the best options to put in place on your farm to protect water quality.



You can call them to discuss over the phone or arrange an appointment to suit you. Contact details can be found on the additional information sheet. It's not essential to contact your local project partner before submitting your application, but it may help the success of your application and the impact of the project.

Your application should be supported by:

- Maps showing the location of proposed activity and any local watercourses, ditches, or field drains
- Map of your farm/field boundaries
- Photos showing the proposed areas for improvement (if applicable)
- Any necessary permissions, consents, licences, and authorisations (if applicable) to undertake the project
- Any other evidence and documents that support your application

Submit your application to [catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk)

We'll let you know when we've received it, but please be patient as we are only a small team. If your email has come through successfully, you will receive an automatic response.

#### 4 We'll assess your application

The fund is a competitive scheme, so all applications will be assessed against a scoring matrix. However, we'll also consider farms' individual circumstances during this process. The scoring matrix takes into account, but isn't limited to, the potential impact of the measures selected, area of activity, and relative risk of the location. The matrix has been designed to make sure funding goes to projects that offer the greatest water quality benefit.

#### 5 We'll be in touch

Once every application has been assessed, we'll let each applicant know whether or not they've been successful.

If you're successful, an agreement will be sent by email for you to sign electronically through DocuSign. It must be signed by both you and Thames Water before any activity can start.

Once you've signed your agreement, Thames Water will send you a form to complete at each milestone, and get you set up on our finance system ready for payment in due course.

#### 6 Complete the activity

Different options have different timescales for completion, and some have milestones along the way, when we'll release partial funding to you. The timescales for each activity can be found in the Options available.

Once you've reached a funding milestone and/or finished the activity, fill in your milestone form and email it to [catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk), along with any supporting evidence and information.

Thames Water and/or our project partners may arrange a time and date to visit your farm to check all the funded activity has been completed as per your agreement.

Once we're satisfied the activity has been completed to an appropriate standard, we'll release the funding.

## Options available

The table below summarises the options available through the Catchment Fund addressing herbicide pollution. For specific option details, requirements, and considerations, please see the following pages. For payment rates, please refer to the separate information booklet.

| Category                 | Option                                                           | Page |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Crop and land management | Winter cover crops                                               | 7    |
|                          | Whole-year cover crops                                           | 8    |
|                          | Cover crop following maize crops                                 | 9    |
|                          | Undersown spring cereals                                         | 10   |
|                          | Legume ley                                                       | 11   |
|                          | Arable reversion to grassland – option A or B                    | 12   |
|                          | Reduced input grassland (after arable reversion) – option A or B | 14   |
|                          | 4m-6m buffer on cultivated land                                  | 15   |
|                          | Non-chemical weed control                                        | 16   |
| Farmyard infrastructure  | Roofing                                                          | 17   |
|                          | Clean and dirty water separation                                 | 19   |
|                          | Concrete yard renewal                                            | 20   |
|                          | Pesticide sprayer washdown and loading area                      | 21   |
|                          | Pesticide biofilter                                              | 22   |
|                          | Lined biobed                                                     | 24   |
| Education                | Training & development                                           | 25   |
| Technical                | Weed management – equipment                                      | 27   |
|                          | Precision herbicide application technologies                     | 28   |
|                          | Farmer innovation                                                | 29   |

## Winter cover crops

This option is for establishing a cover crop with at least five species over winter, with benefits for soil health and water quality.

### Benefits for water quality

Establishing a cover crop on otherwise bare soil helps intercept herbicides and pesticides, which can be lost through surface runoff. Cover crops also support soil health and reduce the risk of erosion and nutrients leaching to groundwater.

### Benefits for your farm

Cover crops support the development of healthy soils, taking up surplus nitrogen, building up organic matter and reducing the effects of compaction. Some cover crops can have fumigation effects, improving soil structure and fertility and rebalancing microflora. Cover crops provide protection from erosion and can help to disrupt certain pest and disease cycles and can be used as part of wider weed management strategies.

### Where this option can be used

This option should be used where soil health benefits are required, where soil would be left bare, and especially in groundwater areas on light, sandy soils which are susceptible to nitrate leaching.

### Time period

You can apply for funding for this activity in any or all of the seasons on the application form. The more years the better!

### General requirements

- Establish winter cover crops within two weeks of harvest and no later than 15 September, retaining until at least 15 January



- A mix of at least five different species will need to be planted, and will need to be:
  - Capable of being sown in the winter
  - Fast growing
  - Frost tolerant
- Min till or no till techniques will need to be used for establishment of cover crops
- You should seek advice as to which cover crop is most appropriate for your field
- It is not permitted to undersow maize
- The selected cover crop must give good ground cover
- Fertiliser or manures cannot be applied to the cover crop
- Grazing of cover crops is permitted after 31 January

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Map showing where you intend to plant the cover crops and any local watercourses or ditches
  - Photos of the planned cover crop field(s)
  - Details of the planned seed mixes
- With your milestone form:
  - Proof of purchase for seed mixes sown
  - Field records including, but not limited to, areas and dates sown and how the option fits in with rotational cropping (if relevant)
  - Photos of areas prior to sowing, during and once fully established, and on or after 15 January.

## Whole-year cover crops

This option is for establishing a cover crop with at least five species which stays in the ground for a whole crop year, with benefits for soil health and water quality.

### Benefits for water quality

Establishing a cover crop on otherwise bare soil helps intercept herbicides and pesticides, which can be lost through surface runoff. Cover crops support soil health and reduce the risk of erosion and nutrients leaching to groundwater.

### Benefits for your farm

Cover crops support the development of healthy soils, taking up surplus nitrogen, building up organic matter and reducing the effects of compaction. Some cover crops can have fumigation effects, improving soil structure and fertility and rebalancing microflora. Cover crops provide protection from erosion and can help to disrupt certain pest and disease cycles and can be used as part of wider weed management strategies.

### Where this option can be used

This option should be used where soil health benefits are required, where soil would be left bare, and especially in groundwater areas on light, sandy soils which are susceptible to nitrate leaching.

### Time period

You can apply for funding for this activity in any or all of the seasons on the application form.

### General requirements

- Establish whole-year cover crops within two weeks of harvest and no later than 15 October, retaining for as long as possible until preparing to grow the next autumn crop, at least until 15 August.
- Spring replanting of summer seed mix can be done if pressure from blackgrass is high or there is poor establishment of cover crops in the winter.



- A mix of at least five different species will need to be planted, and will need to be:
  - Capable of being sown in the winter
  - Fast growing
  - Frost tolerant
- Min till or no till techniques will need to be used for establishment of cover crops
- You should seek advice as to which cover crop is most appropriate for your field
- It is not permitted to undersow maize
- The selected cover crop must give good ground cover
- Fertiliser or manures cannot be applied to the cover crop
- Grazing of cover crops is permitted after 31 January

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Map showing where you intend to plant the cover crops and any local watercourses or ditches
  - Photos of the planned cover crop field(s)
  - Details of the planned seed mixes
  - Proposed stocking rates and periods if applicable
- With your milestone form:
  - Proof of purchase for seed mixes sown
  - Field records including, but not limited to, areas and dates sown and how the option fits in with rotational cropping (if relevant)
  - Photos of areas prior to sowing, during and once fully established, and on or after 15 August



## Cover crop following maize crops

Establish a quick growing cover crop which includes at least three different species to give a dense cover of vegetation during the winter following a maize crop.

### Benefits for water quality

Establishing a cover crop helps to reduce the risk of soil erosion and slows runoff; allowing soil particles to settle out will reduce losses of sediment, nutrients, herbicides and pesticides carried in surface water. Cover crops support good soil health, reduce erosion and leaching of nutrients to groundwater.

### Benefits for your farm

A fast-growing cover crop keeps nutrients and organic materials in the soil, available for plant uptake. Covering bare soils will improve soil stability and reduce the risk of soil erosion.

### Where this option can be used:

This option is only for land used for growing maize.

### Time period

You may apply for funding for this activity in any or all of the seasons on the application form. The more years the better!

### General requirements:

- Consider the most appropriate establishment system for your farm; the cover crop can be sown between the rows of your maize crop prior to harvest, during harvest or within two weeks of harvest and not later than 15 October, retaining until at least 15 February
- The cover crop needs to include at least three different species such as, vetch, phacelia, barley, or mustard. The choice of cover crop species will be dependent on herbicide types and rates used for the previous crop. You should choose species which are fast growing and frost tolerant



- If possible, establishing the cover crop during the growing season via inter-row sowing will help maximise the benefits
- This option can be used in combination with the option for 4m-6m buffer on cultivated land
- Nutrients can only be used in line with crop requirements for maize and the following cash crop; no more than the recommended amount of slurry or manure can be applied for either the maize or the cash crop that follows
- Nutrient input must be based on an approved fertiliser management recommendation system (Nutrient Management Guide RB209 or similar) or less

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Map showing where you intend to plant the cover crops and any local watercourses or ditches
  - Photos of the planned field(s) for the enhanced management with cover crops following maize
  - Details of the seed mixes you propose to sow
- With your milestone form:
  - Proof of purchase for seed mixes sown
  - Field records including, but not limited to, areas and dates sown and how the option fits in with rotational cropping (if relevant), also records of any applications made, details of chemicals/fertilisers applied, method and dates
  - Photos of areas prior to sowing, during and once fully established

## Undersown spring cereals

This option is to establish a grass/flower-rich legume ley by undersowing spring cereals (not maize).

### Benefits for water quality

Covering the soil when it would normally be bare helps intercept surface water runoff, minimise soil erosion and improve soil structure. The undersown leys support nutrient and water retention, reducing the risk of nutrients leaching from soils to underlying groundwater.

### Benefits for your farm

The theory behind undersowing is to create a low-growing cover that helps suppress weeds and build soil fertility but does not interfere with the cereal crop. The undersown ley will provide a source of forage post-harvest which can be used for late season grazing or harvested by mowing.

Undersowing may help control weeds competing with the crop, potentially reducing the need for further applications/treatment.

This option encourages biodiversity, providing valuable habitat and food sources for flora and fauna.

### Where can this option be used:

This option should be used on fields next to a watercourse that are impacted by erosion and surface runoff.

Alternatively, to deliver benefits for groundwater this option should be adopted in fields with shallow, light soils. We encourage you to consider whether this option, or other options such as Cover crops is the most appropriate for your farm.



### Time period

You can apply for funding for this activity in any or all of the seasons on the application form. The more years the better!

### General requirements:

- Undersow the spring sown cereal crop (not maize) with a grass/flower-rich legume ley no later than 30 April. Leave it as long as possible until preparing to grow the next crop

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Map showing where you intend to undersow the spring cereal crop and any local watercourses or ditches
  - Photos of the planned undersown spring cereal field(s)
  - Details of the grass/flower rich legume ley you propose to sow
  - Details of the planned type, approximate planting date for the following crop
  - Details of how you would incorporate the undersown ley prior to planting the following harvest crop
- With your milestone form:
  - Proof of purchase for seed mixes sown
  - Field records including, but not limited to, areas and dates sown and how the option fits in with rotational cropping (if relevant), also records of any applications made, details of chemicals/fertilisers applied, method and dates
  - Photos of areas prior to sowing, during and once fully established

## Legume ley

### Two year (or more) sown legume ley

This option is to establish a legume ley, staying in the ground for two or more years.

#### Benefits for water quality

The legume mix doesn't need chemical or nutrient application, which can help protect water. Removing the need for one cultivation helps protect soil health and therefore retention of future inputs.

#### Benefits for your farm

A sown legume ley provides food for farmland wildlife, like pollen and nectar for pollinators and invertebrate chick food for farmland birds. Legume leys are a good rotational alternative where there are challenges growing traditional break crops and it can also be used to reduce blackgrass populations.

#### Where this option can be used:

This option can be used for arable fields and temporary grassland that are directly adjacent to watercourses (not ditches). It can be adopted on whole fields or part fields. This option cannot be used on land in arable reversion.

#### Time period

The legume ley must be established within two weeks of harvest (ideally by the end of August) and not later than 15 October. It must be retained until at least 15 August of the second year. You can apply for funding for this activity in any or all of the seasons on the application form. The more years the better!

#### General requirements:

- Establish the legume ley within two weeks of harvest, ideally by the end of August, sowing a seed mix of at least six varieties one of which must be a legume
- Only if required to prevent blackgrass heading, cut between March and October



- In the second year, you may cut between 1 March and 15 May to prevent blackgrass heading
- Retain the sown legume ley until at least 15 August in the second summer
- If you plan to use a pesticide to destroy the ley, seek advice when considering which pesticide to use to minimise risk to water and ensure you follow best practice
- You will not be able to graze the legume mix or harvest it for forage before 15 August in the second year

#### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Map showing where you intend to plant the legume ley and any local watercourses or ditches
  - Photos of the planned legume ley field(s)
  - Details of the seed mix you plan to sow
- With your milestone form:
  - Proof of purchase of seed mixes sown
  - Field records including, but not limited to, areas and dates sown and how the option fits in with rotational cropping (if relevant), records of any applications made, details of chemicals/fertilisers applied, method and dates
  - Photos of areas prior to sowing, during and once fully established
  - Records of field operations such as cuts to manage blackgrass, including dates, areas, and method



## Arable reversion to grassland

This option is to convert arable land to grassland, establishing a dense grass sward.

Option A: Low nitrogen input

Option B: Very low nitrogen input

### Benefits for water quality

Removing the need for cultivation, and minimising herbicide and fertiliser use reduces the likelihood of soil compaction, encourages good soil health and nutrient retention preventing contaminants from reaching water.

### Benefits for your farm

The change in use from arable to permanent grassland in fields at risk of soil erosion or surface runoff will help stabilise the soil, reduce nutrient losses and buffer sensitive watercourses. This option encourages biodiversity, providing valuable habitat and food sources for flora and fauna.

### Where this option can be used:

Options A and B can be used on whole or part arable fields adjacent to watercourses, or in groundwater catchments. We advise seeking guidance about where these options may be appropriate.

### Time period

You can apply for funding for this activity for one year on any piece of land, starting in any of the seasons on the application form. For subsequent years you can apply for Reduced input grassland (after arable reversion).

### General requirements:

- The grass sward will need to be established not later than 01 October
- Sow a mix of at least five species, adding a wildflower seed mix to increase the environmental benefit if desired
- You can cut or graze the land in spring and summer (but livestock must be prevented from entering the water), and you can

remove cuttings in late summer after the bird breeding season



You are not permitted to:

- Apply manure or fertiliser between 15 August and 1 February
- Option A - apply more than 100kg/ha/yr of total nitrogen from organic manures or 50kg/ha/yr from fertiliser
- Option B - apply more than 75kg/ha/yr of total nitrogen from farmyard manure (readily available nitrogen products aren't permitted) or 9kg/ha/yr from fertiliser
- Use pesticides, except herbicides to spot-treat or weed-wipe for controlling injurious weeds or non-natives, soft and hard rush, nettles, or bracken. Blanket spraying is not permitted, only targeted treatment of the affected area
- Use supplementary feeds except mineral blocks

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Confirm which option you're applying for
  - Map showing clearly which areas you intend to change from arable land use to permanent pasture and any local watercourses or ditches
  - Photos of the proposed areas
  - Details of the seed mix you plan to sow
  - Proposed grassland management
- With your milestone form:
  - Proof of purchase of seed mixes sown
  - Field records including, but not limited to records of any applications made, details of pesticides/fertilisers applied, method and dates
  - Photos of areas prior to sowing, during and once fully established

- Records of field operations like cuts, including dates, areas, and method



## Reduced input grassland (after arable reversion)

This option is to support keeping grassland after arable reversion. There are two options:

Option A: Low nitrogen input

Option B: Very low nitrogen input

### Benefits for water quality

Keeping previously arable fields in grassland means no cultivation is needed, and herbicide use is minimised.

### Benefits for your farm

The change in use from arable to permanent grassland in fields at risk of soil erosion will help stabilise the soil, reduce chemical requirements and losses, and encourage biodiversity, providing valuable habitat and food sources for flora and fauna.

### Where this option can be used:

In herbicide target areas Options A and B can be used only following previous Arable reversion to grassland through the Catchment Fund, on whole fields or parts of fields.

### Time period

You can apply for funding for this activity on a piece of land in a maximum of four seasons following Arable reversion to grassland.

### General requirements:

This option is for managing grassland using reduced nitrogen inputs. You aren't permitted to:

- Apply manure or fertiliser between 15 August and 1 February
- Option A - apply more than 100kg/ha/yr of total nitrogen from organic manures or 50kg/ha/yr from fertiliser
- Option B - apply more than 75kg/ha/yr of total nitrogen from farmyard manure (products with high readily available nitrogen are not permitted) or 9kg/ha/yr from fertiliser
- Plough, cultivate or reseed



- Undertake mechanical operations (including hay/silage cutting) during the bird nesting season
- Use pesticides, except herbicides to spot-treat or weed-wipe for controlling injurious weeds or invasive non-natives, soft and hard rush, nettles, or bracken. Blanket spraying is not permitted, only targeted treatment of the affected area
- Cut more than one-half of scrub in any one year, except on historic and archaeological features
- Carry out drainage works without consent from statutory authorities
- Use supplementary feeds with the exception of mineral blocks
- Harrow or roll on historic or archaeological features
- Apply other by-products to land

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Confirm which option you're applying for (A or B)
  - Map showing which fields or parts of fields you intend to adopt this option including any local watercourses or ditches
  - Photos of the proposed fields and/or parts of fields
- With your milestone form:
  - Field records including, but not limited to records of any applications made, details of herbicides/fertilisers applied, method and dates
  - Photos of areas at the start, middle and end of each year of the agreement
  - Records of field operations such as cuts, including dates, areas, and method

## 4m-6m buffer on cultivated land

This option is for establishing areas of uncultivated land between the productive part of the field and a watercourse.

### Benefits for water quality

Buffer strips intercept surface runoff, reducing the risk of contaminants reaching watercourses. Removing land from cultivation means no chemicals are applied on the buffer, reducing the risk of them reaching water.

### Benefits for your farm

Buffer strips intercept runoff, keeping soil and nutrients on your farm. Reducing surface runoff can help improve soil structure. Buffer strips can enhance biodiversity, providing valuable habitats for flora and fauna.

### Where this option can be used:

This option applies to land managed in rotation including temporary grass. Permanent pasture is not eligible.

You can apply for funding for new buffer strips or for maintaining existing buffer strips unless they are already in an existing scheme.

### Time period

Buffers must be established after harvest and after the bird breeding season (1 March to 31 August) and maintained for the duration of the agreement. You may apply for funding for this activity in any or all of the seasons on the application form. The more years the better!

### General requirements:

- Sow a grass/wildflower mix with a minimum of six grass/wildflower varieties
- Cut 1m-3m on the edge nearest the crop each year after 15 July
- Buffers must be in arable fields and clearly marked on the submitted maps



For this option, you are not permitted to:

- Cultivate the buffers once established
- Use fertilisers, manures, insecticides, fungicides, or lime on the grass buffer. Herbicides may only be used to control weeds or to spot treat injurious weeds, invasive non-native species, nettles, or bracken. Blanket spraying is not permitted, only targeted treatment
- Graze the buffers
- Use the buffers as access ways for livestock or machinery
- Cut the buffer, except to control woody growth and for edge maintenance
- Remove fallen timber or the limbs of any hedgerow trees over 30cm in diameter
- Use this option where it might overlap a public right of way
- Relocate buffers during the agreement

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Map showing where you intend to establish the buffer strips and any local watercourses or ditches
  - Photos of the fields where you plan to establish the buffer strips
  - Details of the seed mix you plan to sow (if applicable)
- With your milestone form:
  - Proof of purchase for seed mixes sown (if applicable)
  - Field records including, but not limited to, areas and dates sown, how the option fits in with rotational cropping, records of any applications made, herbicides applied, method and dates
- Photos of areas prior to sowing, during and once fully established

## Non-chemical weed control

This option is for the control of weed populations using non-chemical or reduced chemical approaches.

### Benefits for water quality

This option is to reduce the overall amount of chemicals used to control weed populations, which will reduce the amount of pollutants reaching rivers and groundwater.

### Benefits for your farm

Adoption of a non-chemical or reduced chemical management approach can deliver good levels of control, reducing the need for costly herbicide application.

### Where this option can be used:

This option can be used on arable land and will be bespoke to your farm. Management approaches may need to be tailored to individual fields.



### Time period

Management options will need to be implemented within 12 months of the signed agreement.

### General requirements:

Management approaches which provide good levels of control and demonstrable benefit for water quality will be considered. You may want to consider conducting herbicide resistance testing in your proposal. You will need to:

- Propose a non-chemical or reduced chemical control method and strategy, and explain how it will protect water
- Monitor weed populations to inform short, medium, and long-term management strategies

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Clear explanation of your planned approach and breakdown of costs which we will consider on a case-by-case basis
  - Maps showing fields where the approach will be used
- With your milestone form:
  - Receipts, invoices for labour and proof of purchase for equipment and/or materials (where relevant)
  - Photos of areas before, during and on completion
  - A summary or report outlining the success of the method or strategy



### Roofing

Over existing or new sprayer washdown and loading areas.

This option is for roofing over existing or new pesticide sprayer washdown and loading areas.

We encourage you to consider this option if you're applying for Pesticide sprayer washdown and loading area.

#### Benefits for water quality

Roofing provides an impermeable surface where rainfall can be routed and collected appropriately. This will minimise surface water runoff, reducing the risk of pollutants (herbicides) entering water sources.

#### Benefits for your farm

Roofing over the sprayer washdown and loading area diverts valuable clean water resources, ensuring separation from contaminants and allowing sprayer washings to be managed separately.

#### Where this option can be used:

Funding is available for the roofing over existing or new sprayer washdown and loading areas.

As part of your application, you'll need to confirm what infrastructure you are proposing to cover, noting that it cannot be used:

- To cover a biobed
- To repair or replace existing roofing
- To cover concrete funded under Concrete yard renewal
- Without the necessary consents and permissions



#### Time period

This option is a one-off capital item and will need to be erected within 18 months of this option being agreed. The roofing must be retained and maintained for at least five years.

#### General requirements:

- Consent may be required for the covering of a structure and any associated drainage infrastructure. Consultation with building control and Local Planning Authority is advised
- All work will need to meet relevant British Standards
- The roof must be impermeable to rainwater; guttering and drainage will need to be installed to direct roof water to a clean water drain
- You are advised to seek guidance to ensure that proposals meet The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agriculture Fuel Oil (England) Regulations 2010
- Roofs over pesticide sprayer washdown and loading areas:
  - Must cover both the bunded washdown area and any drains to the holding tank
  - Must have a minimum overhang of 1m on each side
  - May be combined with the building of side walls and shades at the applicant's expense and subject to necessary consents

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Provide a description of the infrastructure you are proposing to cover together with a written quotation
  - Photos of the existing infrastructure
  - Provide a map showing the location of the proposed roof and any local watercourses, drains or ditches
  - Evidence of consent from stakeholders and interested parties (if applicable)
- With your milestone form:
  - Receipts, invoices for labour and proof of purchase for materials and equipment
  - Photos before, during and on completion



## Clean and dirty water separation

This option is to improve the drainage network to ensure that 'clean' water and 'dirty' foul water can be separated and managed appropriately.

### Benefits for water quality

Keeping rainwater separate from dirty water means less volume of dirty water overall, and as a consequence less chance of polluting rivers and groundwater.

### Benefits for your farm

This option allows the separation of clean and dirty water which may offer greater opportunity to reuse clean water resources. Keeping water separate helps when managing slurry and manure and this may have financial benefits for your farm.

### Where this option can be used:

This option is to be used for the improvement or upgrade of existing infrastructure. This option can only be used in areas where pesticides are handled and/or used. Activities might include the introduction of gutters and downpipes, catch pits, gullies, kerbs and sleeping policemen.

### Time period

You will need to implement this option within 12 months of the signed agreement and the infrastructure will need to remain operational and be maintained for at least five years.



### General requirements:

- Clean water is not to be contaminated by foul/dirty water
- The foul/dirty water drainage will need to conform with relevant legislation including The Water Resources (Control of Pollution) (Silage, Slurry and Agriculture Fuel Oil (England) Regulations 2010
- Drainage infrastructure will need to have a minimum design life of 20 years
- All work will need to satisfy the relevant British Standards or other relevant or equivalent standards
- Gutters can be used to recover roof water and reduce rainwater entering foul/dirty water systems

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Provide a description of the works you are proposing to carry out together with a written quotation or breakdown of costs
  - Photos of the existing infrastructure
  - Evidence of consent from stakeholders and interested parties (if applicable)
- With your milestone form:
  - Receipts, invoices for labour and proof of purchase for materials and equipment as appropriate
  - Photos before, during and on completion

## Concrete yard renewal

### Existing outdoor uncovered yards

This option is for upgrading, renewing or repairing existing yards with concrete. You may also want to consider the Clean and dirty water separation option.

#### Benefits for water quality

An impermeable concrete surface reduces the risk of foul water containing pollutants reaching water sources. Concrete hardstanding allows effective management of clean and dirty waters, reducing pollution risk.

#### Benefits for your farm

New concrete hardstanding enables efficient travel of machinery and livestock around the farm, and the impermeable surface will be easier to keep clean and clear should any spillages occur. You will be able to incorporate features like cross drains and gullies to help you manage runoff to appropriate routes.

#### Where this option can be used:

This option is for upgrading, renewing, or repairing existing yards to manage water runoff better. This option can only be used in areas that are located nearby a watercourse where herbicides are handled and/or used.

This option cannot be used:

- For the expansion of new farm infrastructure
- On covered indoor yards
- Where manure, silage or slurry is stored
- In areas housing livestock

#### Time period

Concrete yard renewal is a one-off capital item, and the yard will need to be repaired within the first 18 months after signing the agreement. The concrete will need to be retained and maintained for at least five years from completion.



#### General requirements:

- All work will need to meet relevant British Standards
- The concrete base will need to be reinforced to minimise impact of livestock or vehicle movements and be constructed from a material which is resistant to effluent
- As part of the design ensure that the concrete yard renewal incorporates mitigation features such as cross drains, catchpits and gullies to direct runoff to appropriate routes
- You are encouraged to seek guidance to ensure appropriate routing of surface water and foul water drainage
- You may need to apply for consent from your Local Planning Authority to undertake this activity

#### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Map showing the area you plan to upgrade renew or repair and any local watercourses, ditches, or drains
  - A description of the works you are planning and a written quotation or broken-down demonstration of costs
  - Photos of the existing yard
  - Evidence of consent from stakeholders and interested parties (if applicable)
- With your milestone form:
  - Receipts, invoices for labour and proof of purchase for materials and equipment as appropriate
  - Details of material used and any exemptions
  - Photos before, during and on completion

## Pesticide sprayer washdown and loading area

This option is for constructing a dedicated pesticide sprayer washdown and loading area to collect the washings from sprayer applicators. This can be combined with Roofing, Lined biobed and Pesticide biofilter.

### Benefits for water quality

A dedicated, purpose-built, impermeable washdown and loading area allows pollutants to be captured and managed, minimising the risk of water pollution.

### Benefits for your farm

An impermeable surface helps manage dirty water, making sure it can be separated, collected, and treated. This helps minimise volumes of contaminated water, minimising risks to staff.

### Where this option can be used:

This option should be constructed in an area set aside for pesticide loading and washing operations, ideally where there's no other traffic. Applications will have a higher chance of being successful if they also include plans for roofing, bunding and biofilters/biobeds. It cannot be constructed:

- Within 10m of a watercourse
- Within 50m of a spring, borehole, well or reservoir
- Within 250m of a borehole used by industry to supply water for domestic use or food production
- In an area liable to flooding
- On historic or archaeological features or areas of existing wildlife interest identified on the Farm Environment Record, the Environmental Information Map, or the Historic Environment Farm Environment Record

### Time period

This option will need to be constructed and operational within 12 months of the signed

agreement and retained and maintained for at least five years from completion.



### General requirements:

- Applications must be for washdown and loading areas, or just washdown areas.
- You must obtain relevant necessary consents and waste exemptions from the Environment Agency
- The area can't be used as a general washdown or cleaning area for other farm equipment. Oil or grease may cause damage and inefficient functioning
- You'll need to install a concrete bunded washdown and loading area, holding tank and fixed pumps and pipes to remove washings from the tank
- Pesticide washings collected in the holding tank must be pumped before the tank reaches capacity using a pump float switch

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Map and photos showing where you propose to construct the pesticide sprayer washdown and loading area and local watercourses, ditches, or drains
  - Photos of the existing pesticide sprayer washdown area
  - Design, layout, and justification of the size of the proposed area
  - Evidence of consent or permissions (if applicable)
- With your milestone form:
  - Receipts, invoices for labour and proof of purchase for materials and equipment as appropriate
  - Details of material used and any exemptions
  - Photos before, during and on completion

## Pesticide biofilter

This option is for installing a biofilter to provide an on-farm method of containing, managing, and treating residues that arise from pesticide (specifically herbicide) handling activities.

### Benefits for water quality

The biofilter will contain, manage, and treat herbicides which might otherwise have reached water.

### Benefits for your farm

Containing and degrading of herbicide washings within an engineered system will remove the need for staff to come into contact with the washings, which will benefit farm workers.

### Where this option can be used:

Biofilters should be used in areas targeting the reduction of herbicide pollution of water.

Note that biofilters shouldn't be used to treat more than 15,000 litres in any 12-month period, so you should consider the volume of washings you expect to generate. Biofilters are not suitable for treating washings from uncovered loading and washdown areas, where a Lined biobed would be more appropriate.

Consideration of siting is important and biofilters shouldn't be constructed:

- Within 10m of a watercourse
- Within 50m of a spring, borehole, well or reservoir
- Within 250m of a borehole used by industry to supply water for domestic use or food production
- Within a groundwater Source Protection Zone 1
- In an area prone to flooding
- On historic or archaeological features or areas of existing wildlife interest identified on the Farm Environment Record, the Environmental Information Map, or the Historic Environment Farm Environment Record



### Time period

The biofilter must be installed and operational within 12 months of the signed agreement and retained and maintained for at least five years from completion.

### General requirements:

Biofilter systems are available to purchase, or you can opt to design a bespoke system. We recommend you seek guidance on suitability, design, and installation from a competent expert, ensuring that it's appropriate for your farm. Biofilters shouldn't be constructed without relevant advice, consents, or waste management licence from the Environment Agency.

To construct a biofilter you will need to:

- Either purchase a ready-made biofilter system or use at least three new, chemical-resistant impermeable containers stacked vertically (eg, IBCs)
- Store pesticide washings in additional containers next to the biofilter, before and/or after treatment, or alternatively, pump the washings directly from an underground storage tank that collects washings from a pesticide handling area
- Cut the tops off the IBCs, leaving the corners intact
- Insert wire mesh lining in the base of each one



- Cover the lining with a permeable membrane
  - Install a layer (at least 10cm) of pea gravel over the membrane so that the drainage outlet to the container below is not blocked
  - Make a biomix by mixing one-part peat-free compost, 1-part topsoil: 2 parts straw (wheat or barley)
  - Allow the biomix to compost for 30-90 days before filling the IBCs
  - Fill the IBCs with biomix, leaving a 10cm gap at the top for pipework
  - Allow the biomix to settle, then top up to a volume of at least 0.5 cubic metres of biomix in each one
  - Stack the IBCs vertically on a flat concrete base
  - If the biofilter is not covered, replace the top of the uppermost container to prevent rainfall from getting in
  - Install pumps, pipes and a hose to pump washings from the initial storage tank to the top biofilter container and onto the biomix through a piped ring distribution system
  - Allow the washings to flow by gravity through the pipes, to the containers below
  - Pump discharge from the bottom container to a storage tank, or for direct irrigation through a perforated hose onto a vegetated area
  - Build a concrete bund at least 100mm high around the biofilter and ancillary storage containers
  - Meet the requirements of the T32 waste exemption
  - Meet relevant British Standards
- Supporting information required**
- With your application:
    - Map and photos showing the area that you propose to site the biofilter and any local watercourses, ditches or drains
    - Description of the proposed biofilter and explanation of how it will work in practice
  - With your milestone form:
    - Receipts, invoices for labour and proof of purchase for materials and equipment as appropriate
    - Details of material used and any exemptions
    - Photos before, during and on completion

## Lined biobed

This option is for constructing a biobed (above or below ground), to provide an on-farm method of containing, managing, and treating residues from pesticide (specifically herbicide) handling.

### Benefits for water quality

The biobed will contain, manage, and treat herbicides which might otherwise have reached water.

### Benefits for your farm

Containing and degrading herbicide washings within an engineered system will remove the need for staff to come into contact with the washings, which will benefit farm workers.

### Where this option can be used

Biobeds should be used in areas targeting the reduction herbicide pollution of water. Biobeds should not be constructed:

- Within 10m of a watercourse
- Within 50m of a spring, borehole, well or reservoir
- Within 250m of a borehole used by industry to supply water for domestic use or food production
- Within a groundwater Source Protection Zone 1
- In an area prone to flooding
- On historic or archaeological features or areas of existing wildlife interest identified on the Farm Environment Record, Environmental Information Map, or Historic Environment Farm Environment Record

### Time period

The biobed will need to be designed, constructed and operational within 12 months of the signed agreement. It will need to be retained and maintained for at least five years from completion.

### General requirements

It is important to check, and where necessary seek expert advice about the suitability of the



proposed location, specification of the biobed itself and associated infrastructure.

- All works will need to be carried out in accordance with relevant British Standards
- The surface area of the biobed must be sufficiently large to handle all sprayer washings and any rainwater – generally 1m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 litres of water
- Field drains near to the biobed will need to be blocked off and removed, removing the pathway to sensitive water receptors
- An impermeable synthetic liner will be required. Use an appropriate liner, suitable for use in a biobed where contaminants will be present
- Use a biomix as in Pesticide biofilter
- You must consult the relevant authorities including, but not limited to, the Environment Agency and, where required, obtain the necessary consents and exemptions for the proposed biobed and any associated infrastructure

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Map and photos showing the area where you plan to site the biobed
  - Description of the proposed biobed and explanation of how it will work in practice
- With your milestone form:
  - Receipts, invoices for labour and proof of purchase for materials and equipment as appropriate
  - Evidence of consent or permissions (if applicable)
  - Details of material used and any exemptions
  - Photos before, during and on completion

## Training & development

This option is for personal development, and could include completion of training, attendance at an event or professional membership of a relevant organisation.

within 12 months of the agreement being signed.

### Benefits for water quality

Increased awareness and understanding of how farming practices impact the environment will help improve land management practices, with more sustainable, 'water friendly' and resilient farming approaches, reducing risks to water.

### Benefits for your farm

The training or membership will give you the chance to learn more about relevant practices, ideas and techniques and the tools to improve sustainability and resilience of farming through better training and information.

### Where this option can be used

The training, event or membership is to be identified by the applicant and will need to have demonstrable benefits to water quality. Proposals will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Participants in the activity must be active members of staff within farm businesses operating within Thames Water's priority catchment areas.

Due to the sporadic running of several popular courses, we are willing to consider this option throughout the year and it does not contribute towards the "one successful application a year" rule, but does contribute to the funding cap.

### Time period

This option allows for one individual from the business to attend a training course or event or maintain a membership subscription to an organisation. This option must be carried out



#### General requirements:

- The training course/event or membership must be with a reputable organisation
- Where courses require an exam this option will fund one attempt at that assessment
- This option will fund a membership subscription for a maximum of 12 months

#### Supporting information required

- With your application provide details of:
  - Who will be attending the course/event and their role within the business
  - The course/event title, content, duration and fees including exams (if relevant)
  - The relevance to water quality and where on the farm the individual will be able to implement this knowledge
  - How learning or information will be recorded or shared and put into practice
  - Feedback as how the completion of the course will impact your business
- With your milestone form:
  - Proof of purchase of training days/ training material/membership and any other relevant expenses
  - Evidence of completing the course and the assessment (where applicable)



## Weed management – equipment

This option is to help purchase equipment to carry out non-chemical weed control.

### Benefits for water quality

The use of alternative weed control removes the need for chemical applications, reducing the risk of contaminants reaching watercourses and groundwater.

### Benefits for your farm

Incorporating non-chemical weed control into your business as part of your Integrated Pest Management approach may help reduce overall costs and allow greater flexibility in the treatment of weeds.

### Where this option can be used:

This option is for the purchase of equipment for use in arable and grassland.

### Time period

This is a one-off capital item, and the equipment will need to be purchased within 12 months of the signed agreement. The equipment will need to be maintained, serviced, tested, and kept in good condition for a minimum of five years.

### General requirements:

- A variety of equipment can be used to manage weeds, not all practices may be suitable for your farm
- The equipment must be supplied from a reputable vendor



### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Description of the proposed equipment and written quotation
  - Map showing fields where the equipment will be used
  - Explanation of the terms of purchase ie new or second hand
- With your milestone form:
  - Receipts, delivery notes and proof of expenses for equipment purchased
  - Records of the serial number of the purchased equipment
  - Confirmation of the equipment having been included on the farm asset register
  - Field records including, but not limited to, areas and dates where the purchased equipment was used
  - Photos of the equipment in operation
  - A summary or report outlining the success of the method or strategy
- For verification (if requested):
  - Records of equipment maintenance, servicing and testing during the first five years after purchase

## Precision herbicide application technologies

This option is to help purchase precision application technologies.

### Benefits for water quality

Precision spraying equipment can achieve more efficient and accurate applications than standard equipment. By reducing overlaps in application and the quantity of chemicals applied, precision application technologies can reduce the likelihood of pollutants reaching water.

### Benefits for your farm

Precision application technologies are for arable and grassland areas and may reduce the quantity of herbicide products used. Through correct and appropriate use, they may improve the efficiency of applications and have cost saving benefits too.

### Where this option can be used:

This is a bespoke option and applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. It can be used on grassland and arable land within Thames Water's priority catchments.

### Time period

This option is for a contribution towards purchasing precision application technology. This is a one-off capital item and technology will need to be purchased within the first 12 months of the signed agreement. The technology and/or equipment will need to be maintained and operational for at least five years after purchase.

### General requirements:

- The precision device applied for must directly benefit water quality and could include a GPS system, variable rate spray, spray nozzles or any other form of technology that allows of the precision application of herbicides



- You must already be following best practice when handling and using grassland and arable inputs such as herbicides
- The technology must be supplied from a reputable vendor

### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - Provide a description of the proposed technology and a breakdown of cost
  - Outline the terms of purchase, ie if the equipment will be purchased new and outright
  - Identify the limits of accuracy of the equipment
  - Outline the item's water quality benefit
  - Map showing where the equipment would be used, including locations of local watercourses, or ditches
- With your milestone form:
  - Receipts, invoices and proof of purchase for equipment bought
  - Records of the serial number of the purchased equipment
  - Confirmation that the equipment is included on the farm asset register
  - Field records including, but not limited to, areas and dates where it was used
  - Records showing use of equipment by a competent and certified operator
  - Photos of the equipment in operation
  - Feedback as to how the equipment has impacted your business
- For verification (if requested):
  - Records of equipment maintenance, servicing and testing during the first five years after purchase

## Farmer innovation

We invite you to put forward your own proposals for activities that offer water quality benefits to reduce herbicides reaching either surface water or to groundwater. Bespoke innovation proposals could be a variation of one of the options listed in the Catchment Fund or a completely different idea.

### Benefits for water quality

Proposals are welcomed that offer demonstrable water quality benefits, either for surface water or to groundwater.

### Benefits for your farm

This is an opportunity to secure financial assistance towards an activity that's bespoke to your farm. The activity will need to include some water quality benefit to qualify. The activity might provide you with an opportunity to experiment or develop studies or trials to support more sustainable and resilient farming.

### Where this option can be adopted:

Proposals that offer clear benefits for either surface and/or groundwater quality within the priority catchments will be considered.

### Time period

The timescale for implementation of the activity will depend on the proposal, however it's expected that the proposal can be in action within 2 years of the agreement being signed.

### General requirements:

- Any equipment or technology purchased in farmer innovation activities must be supplied by a reputable vendor, and where applicable, will need to be maintained, serviced, tested and kept in good condition for a minimum of five years



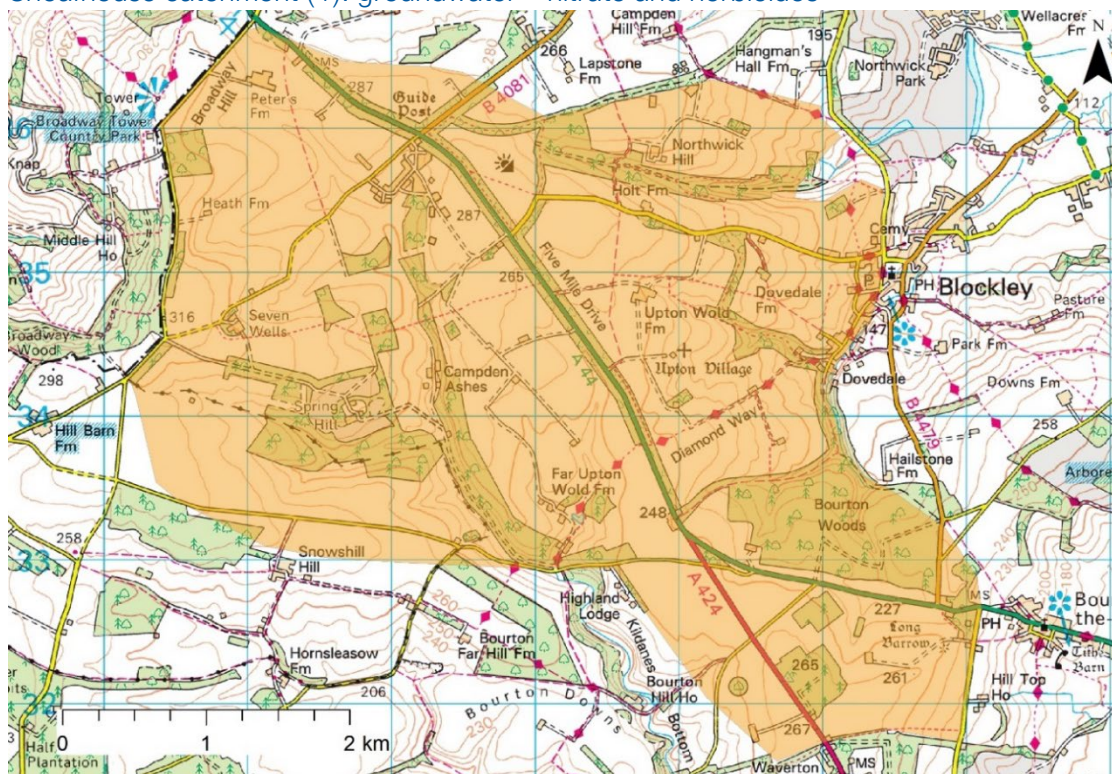
### Supporting information required

- With your application:
  - The name and a description of the activity proposed
  - Detail as to what benefit the activity brings in terms of water quality
  - Details as to where and when the activity will be carried out, including a map of the area which will benefit from the proposal and the locations of any local watercourses, ditches or drains
  - Information as to how much the activity will cost in total, and a breakdown of costs including details of what contribution is being sought
  - Information as to whether there are any restrictions which could impact your ability to carry out the activity
  - If relevant, details of how you will record the outcome of the trial and how you will share this knowledge.
- With your milestone form:
  - The information needed will vary, depending on the activity propose



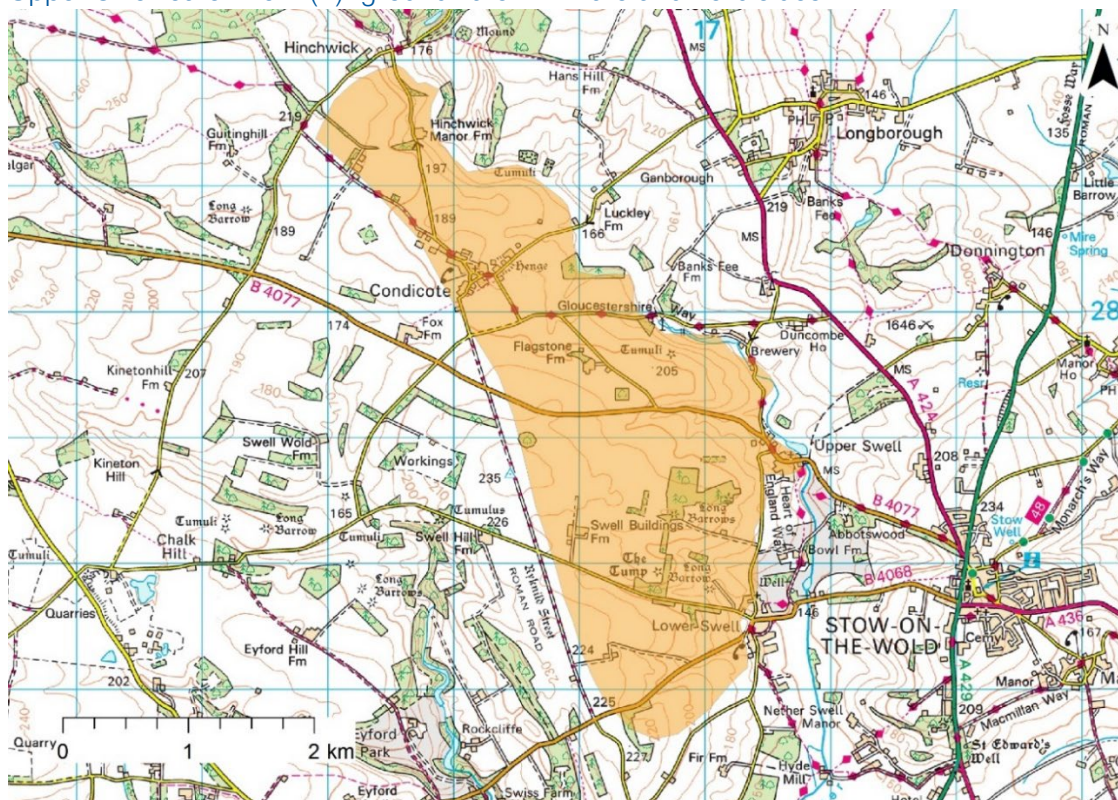
## Priority catchment maps

### Sheafhouse catchment (1): groundwater – nitrate and herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

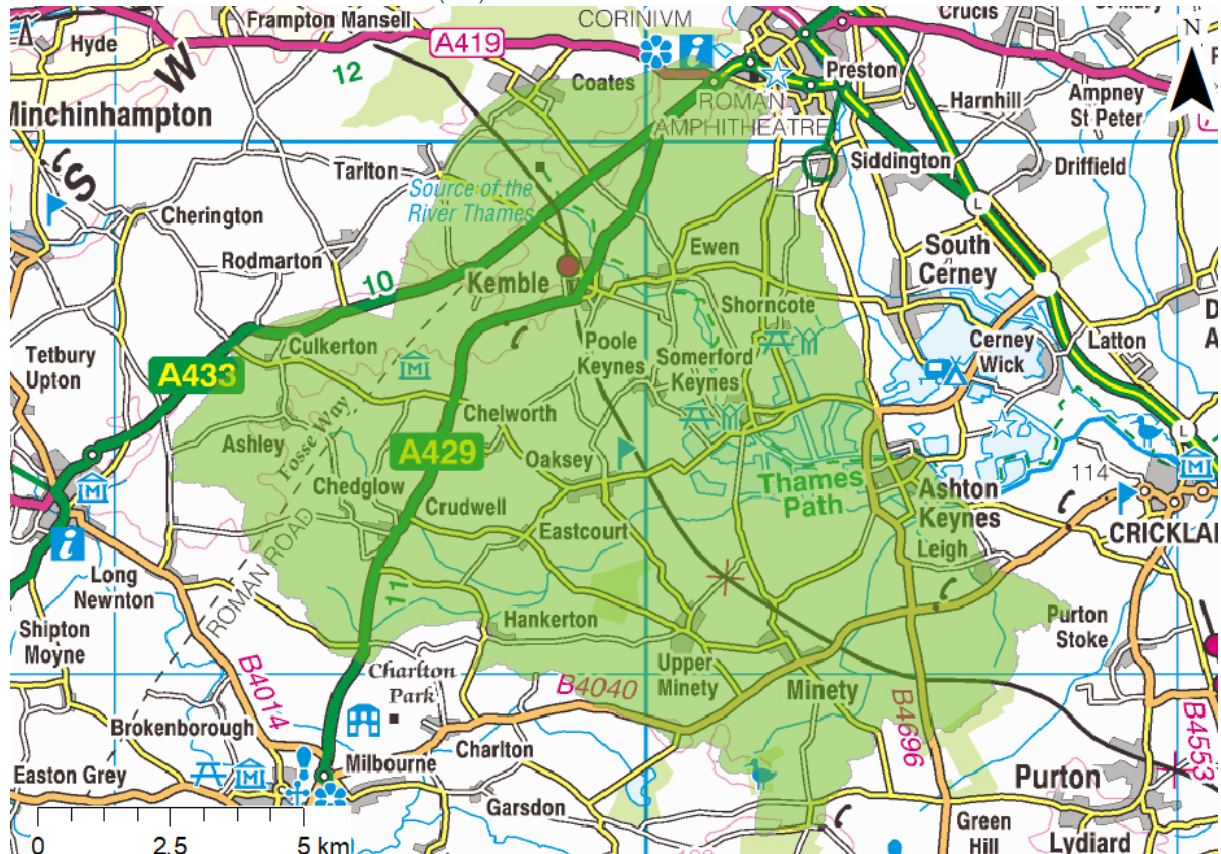
### Upper Swell catchment (2): groundwater – nitrate and herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

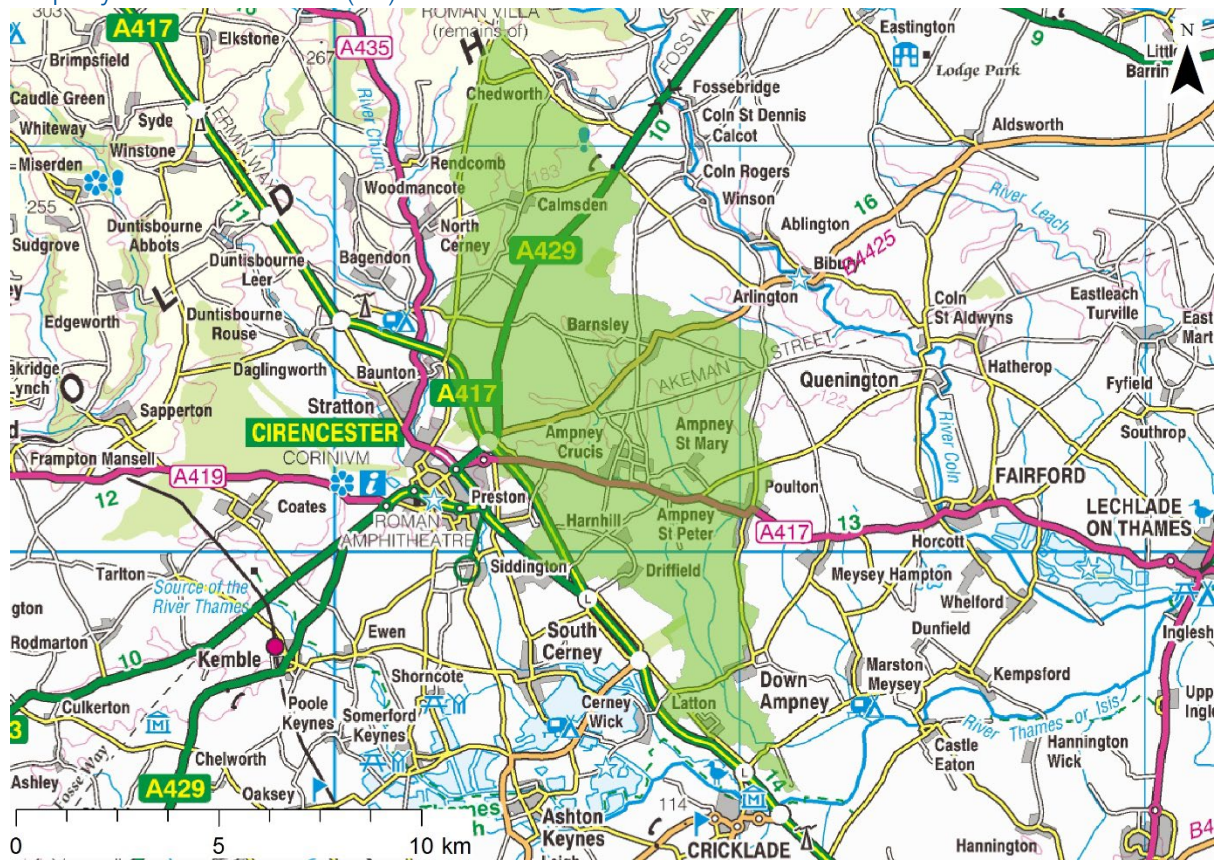


Source of the Thames catchment (12): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

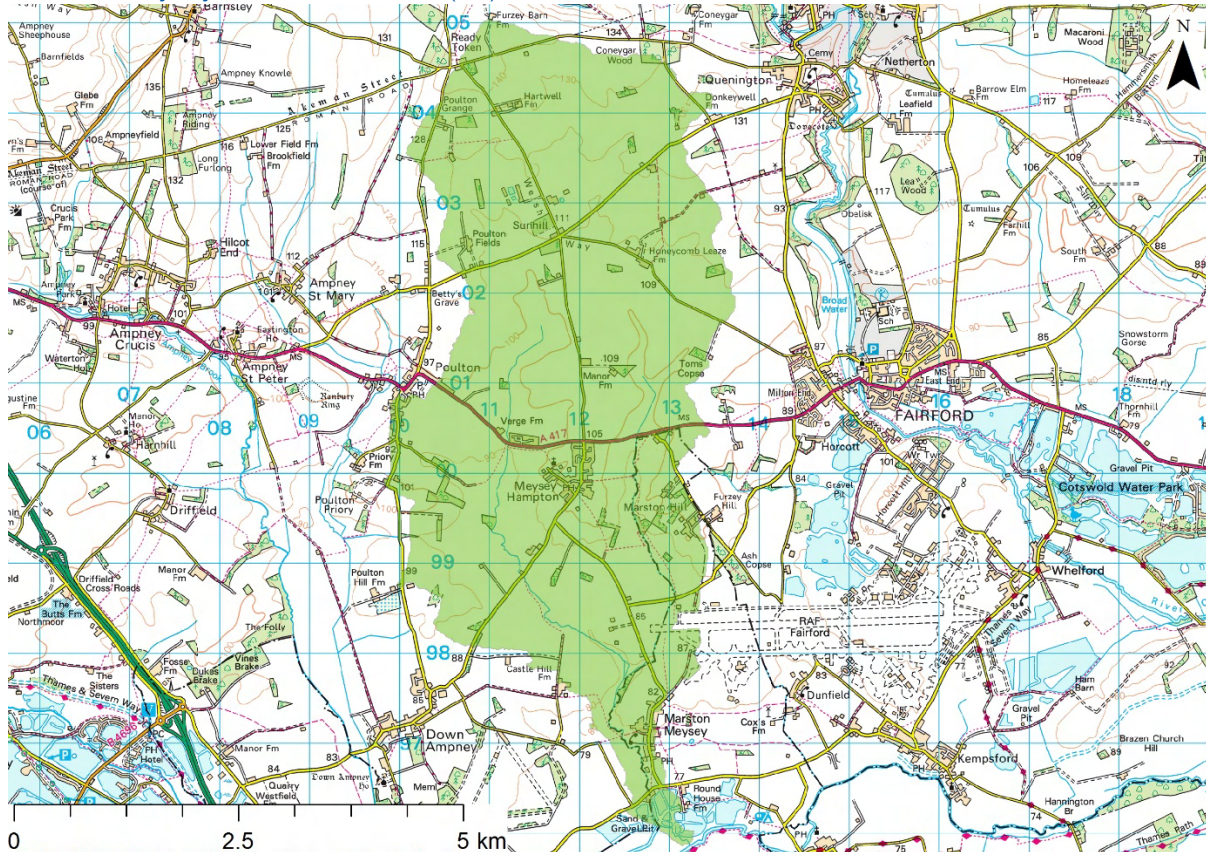
Ampney Brook catchment (13): surface water – herbicides



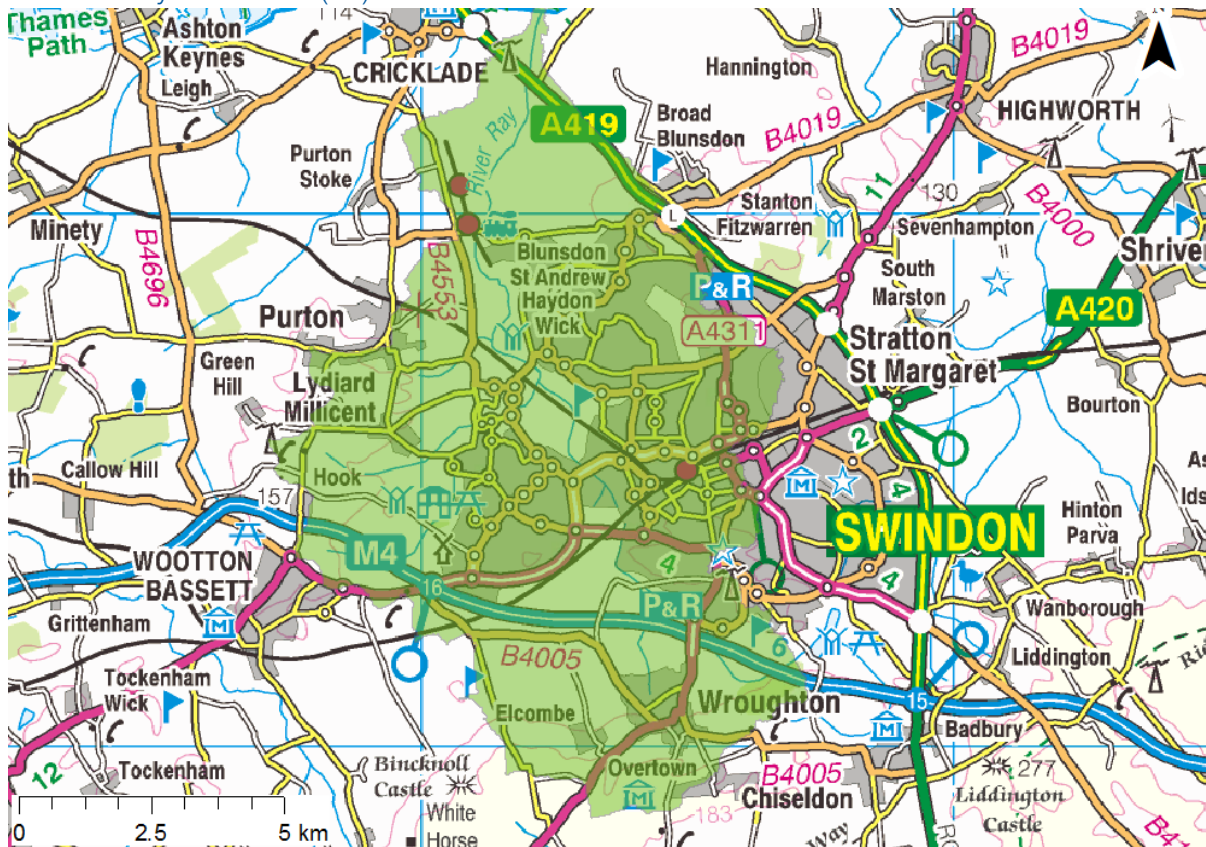
Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345



### Marston Meysey Brook catchment (14): surface water – herbicides



### Wiltshire Ray catchment (15): surface water – herbicides



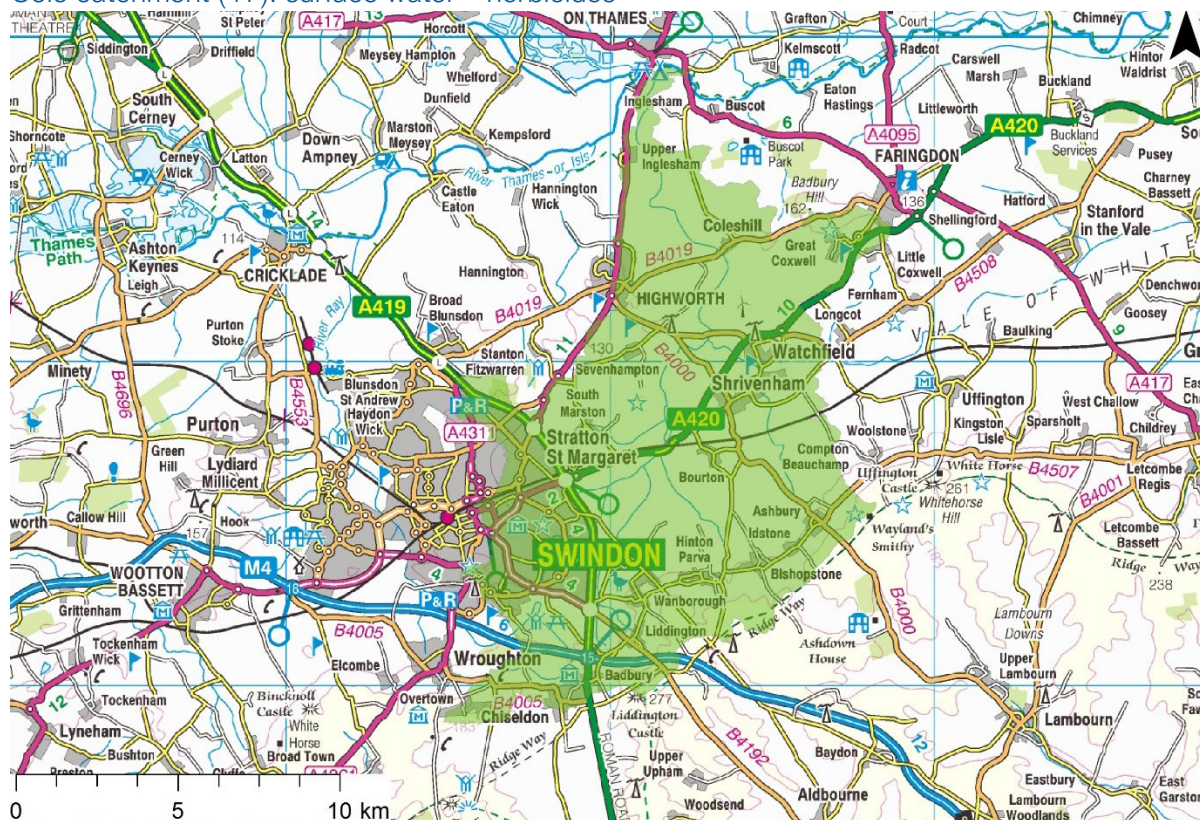


Key and Thames to Coln catchment (16): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

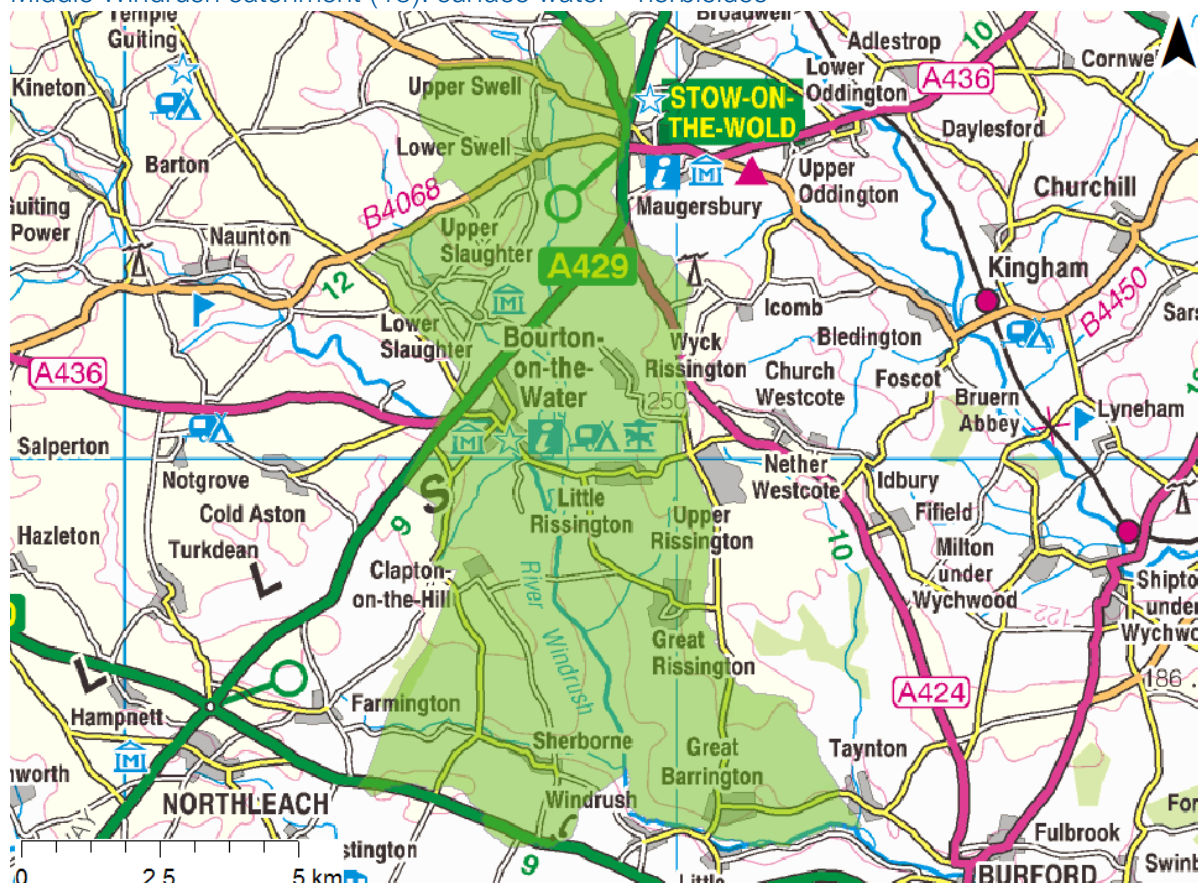
Cole catchment (17): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

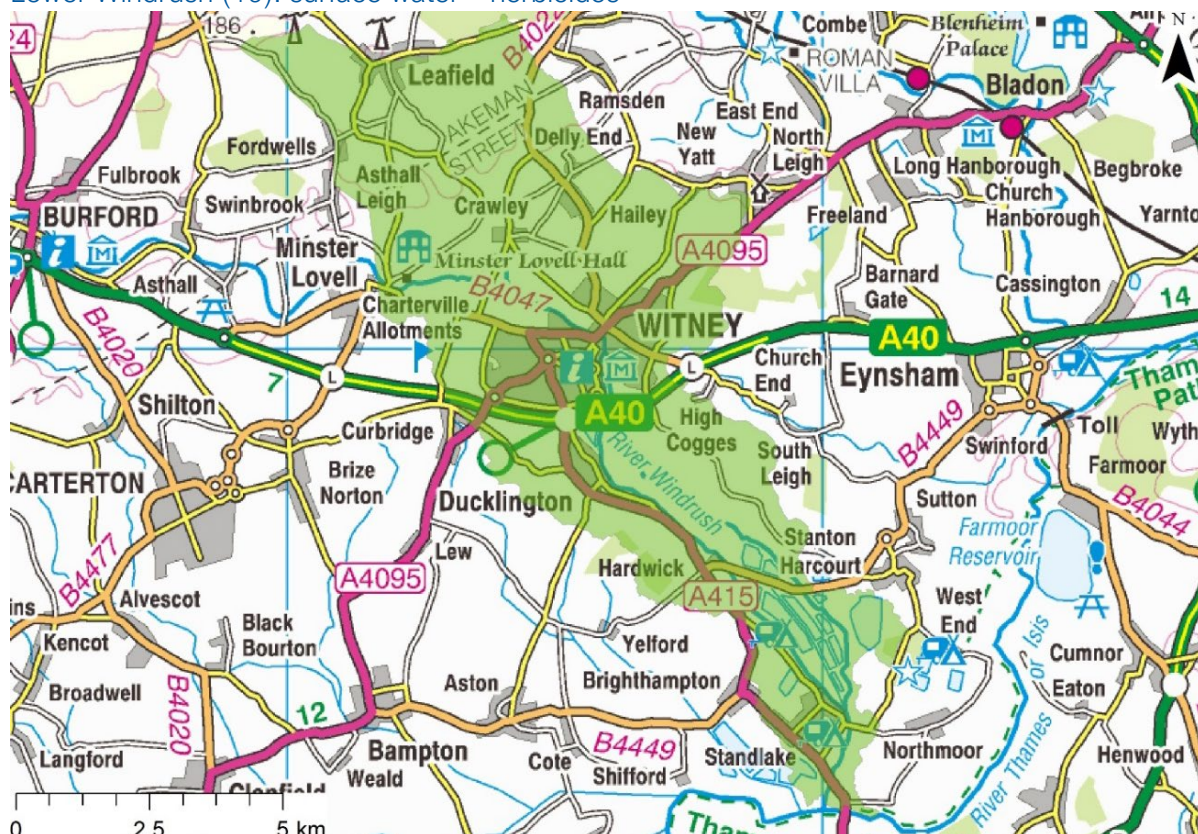


Middle Windrush catchment (18): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

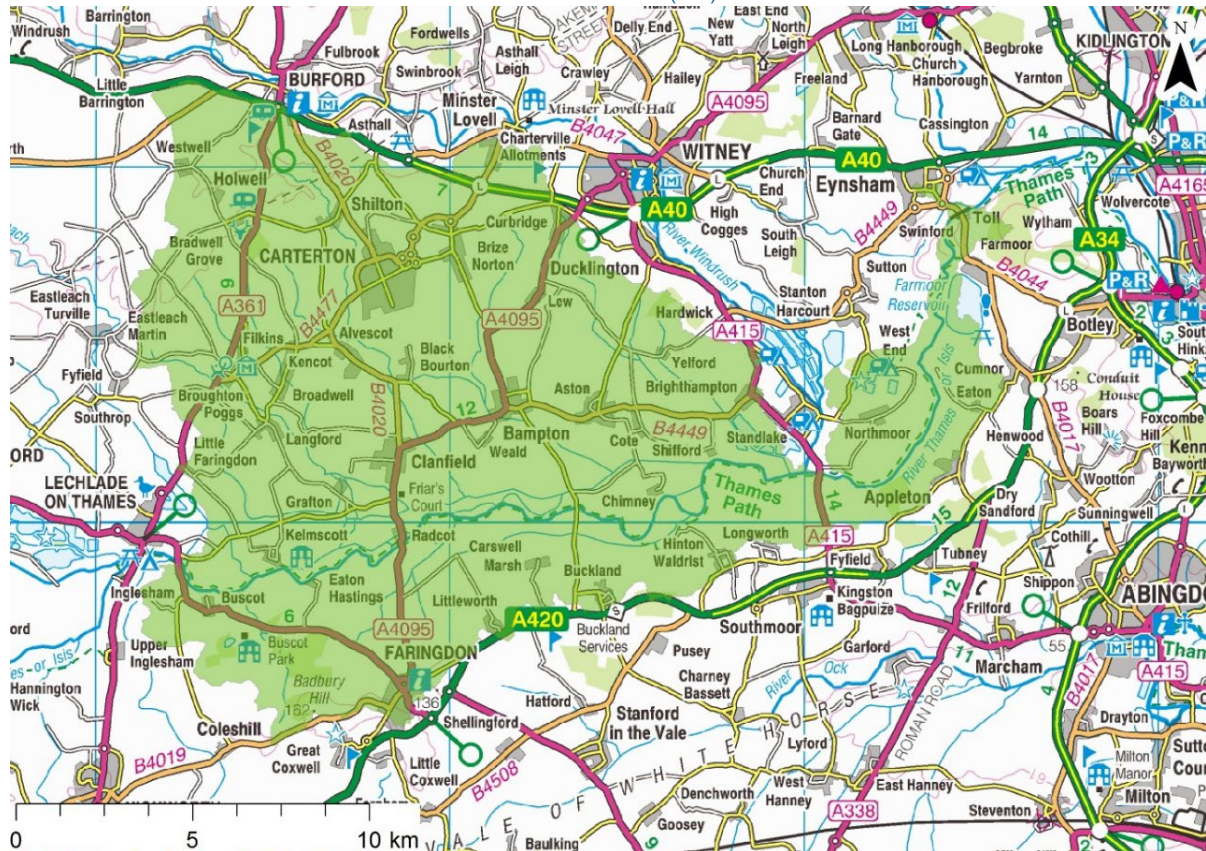
Lower Windrush (19): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

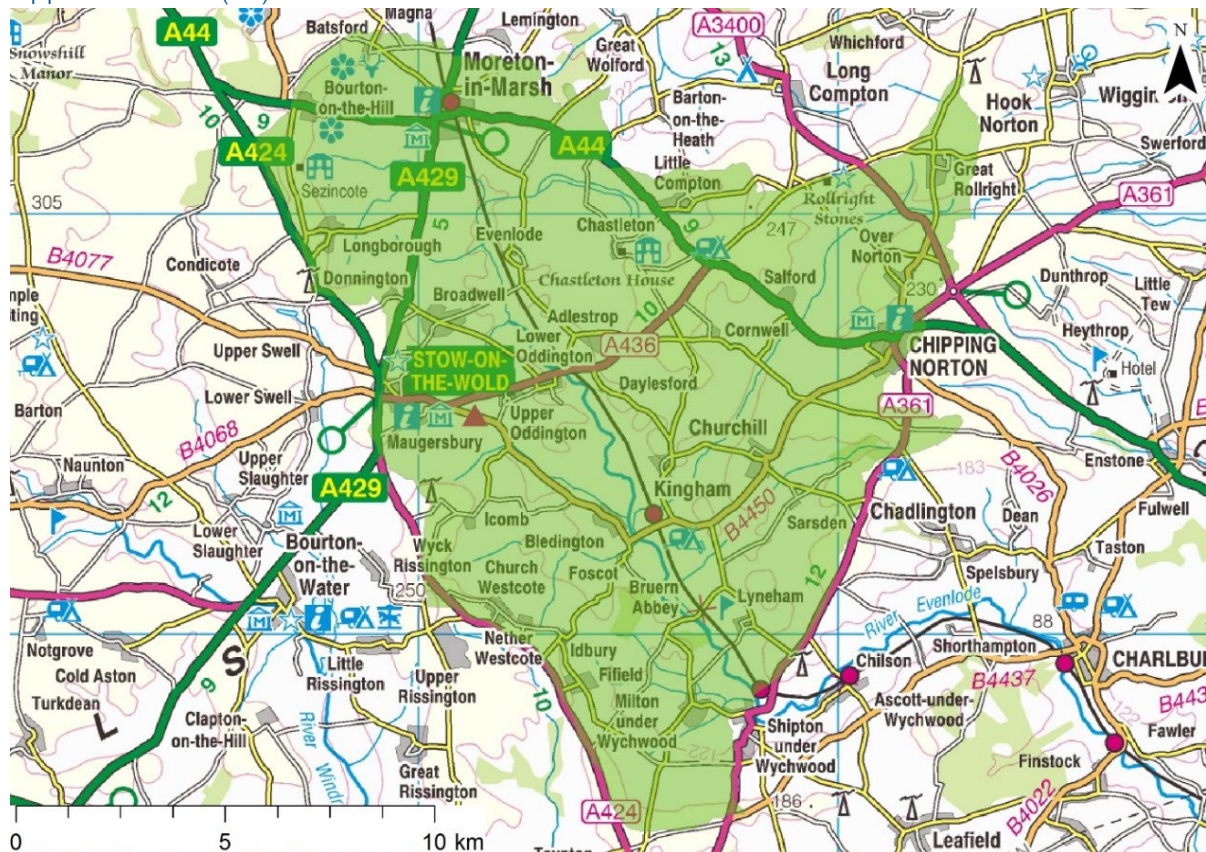


## Great Brook and Thames to Farmoor: surface water (20) – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office License Number 100019345

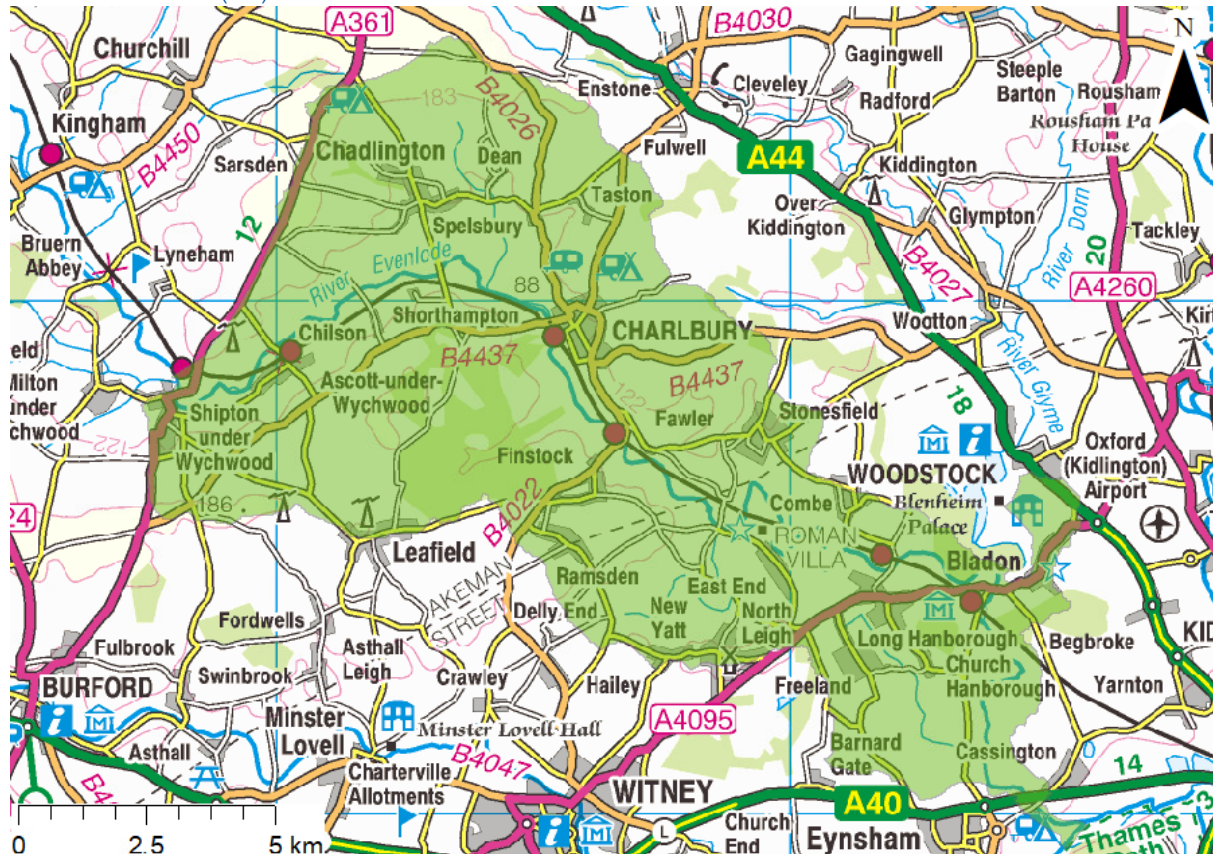
## Upper Evenlode (21): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office License Number 100019345

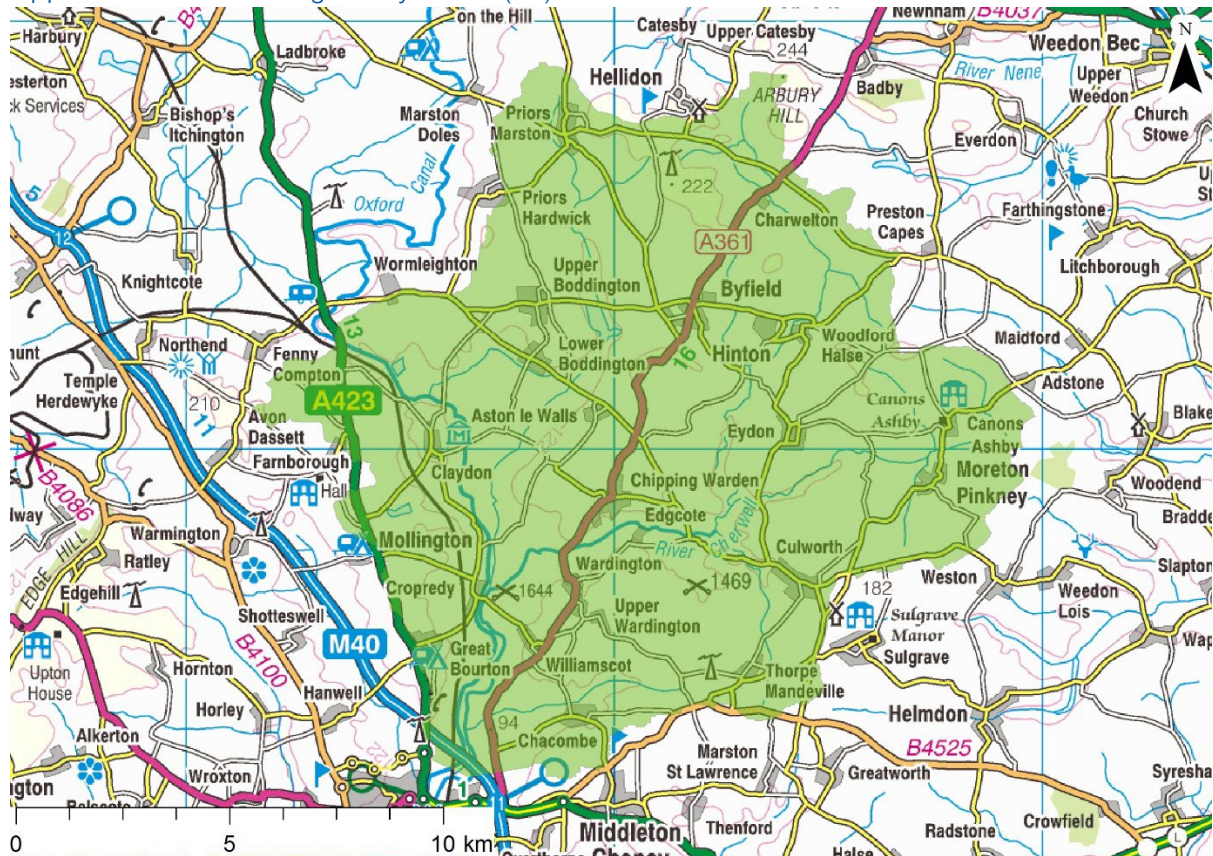


Lower Evenlode (22): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office License Number 100019345

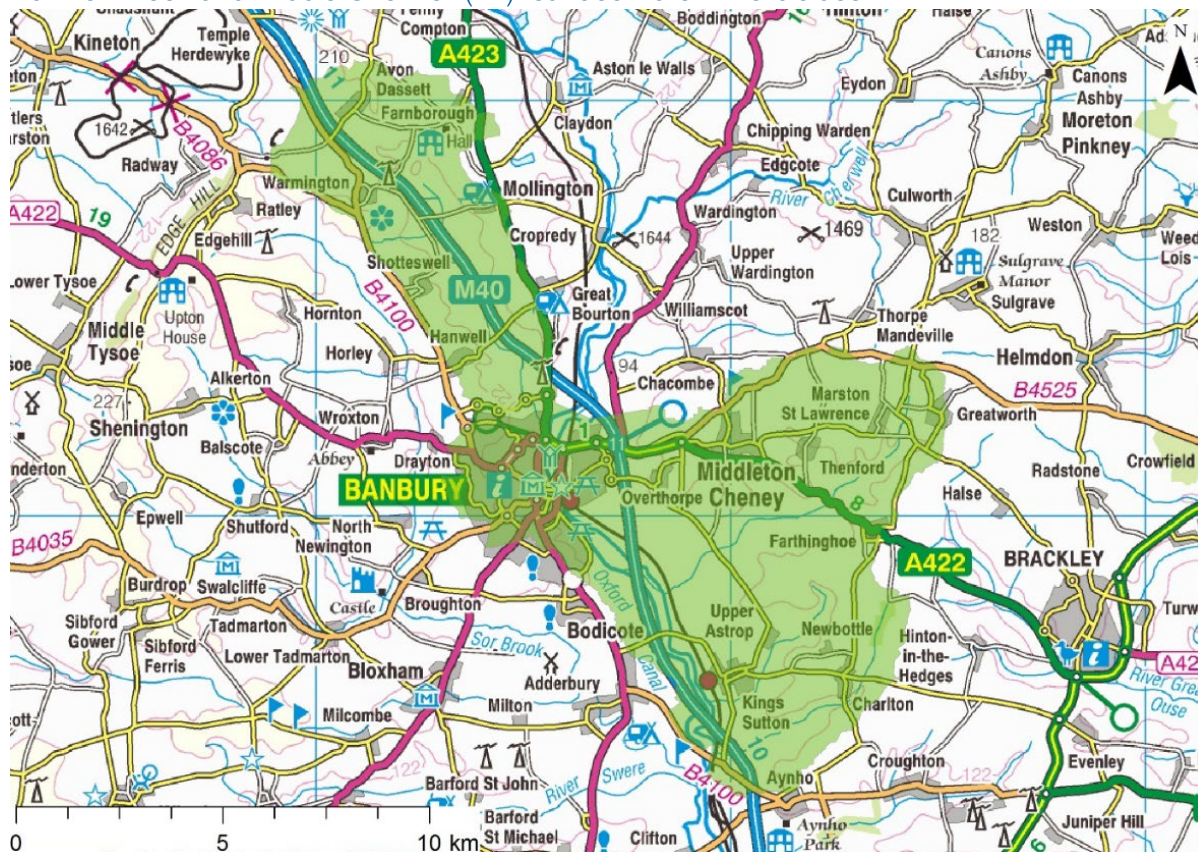
Upper Cherwell including Ashby Brook (23): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office License Number 100019345

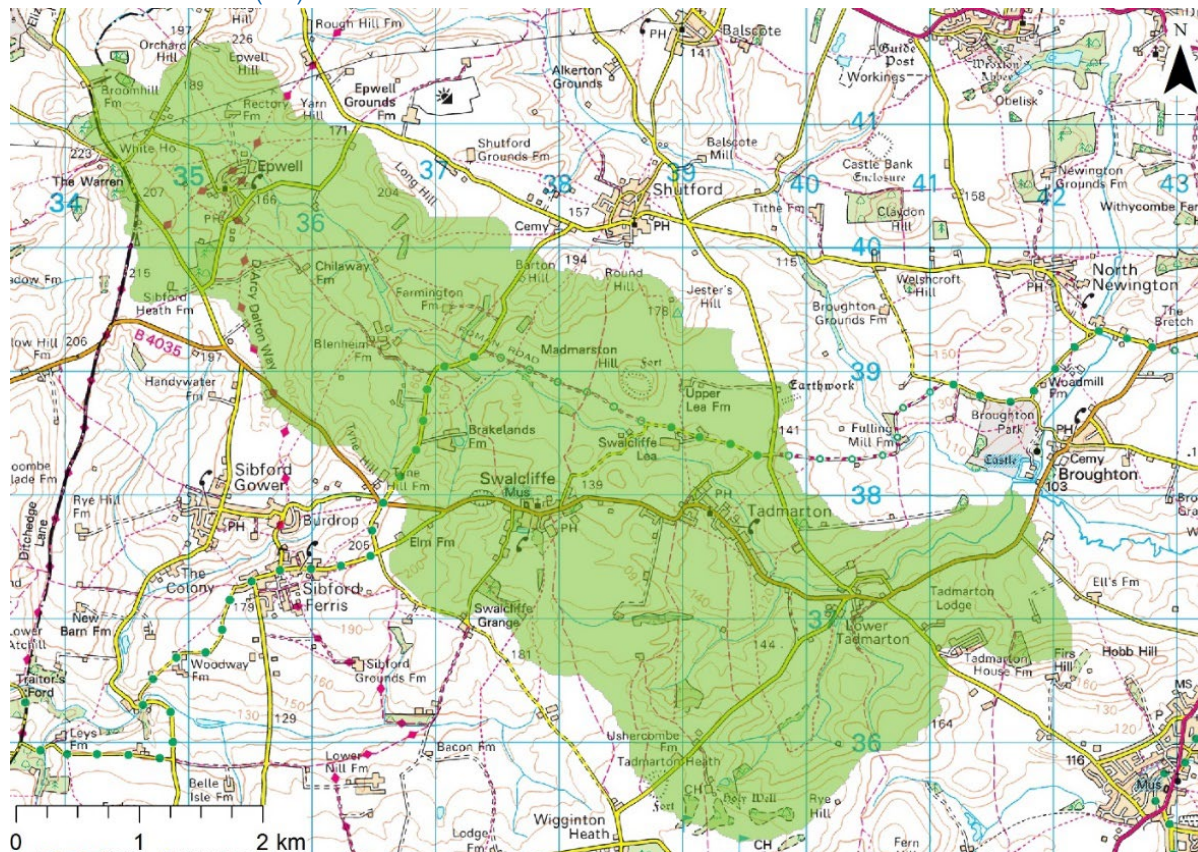


## Hanwell Brook and Middle Cherwell (24): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

## Tadmarton Stream (25): surface water – herbicides

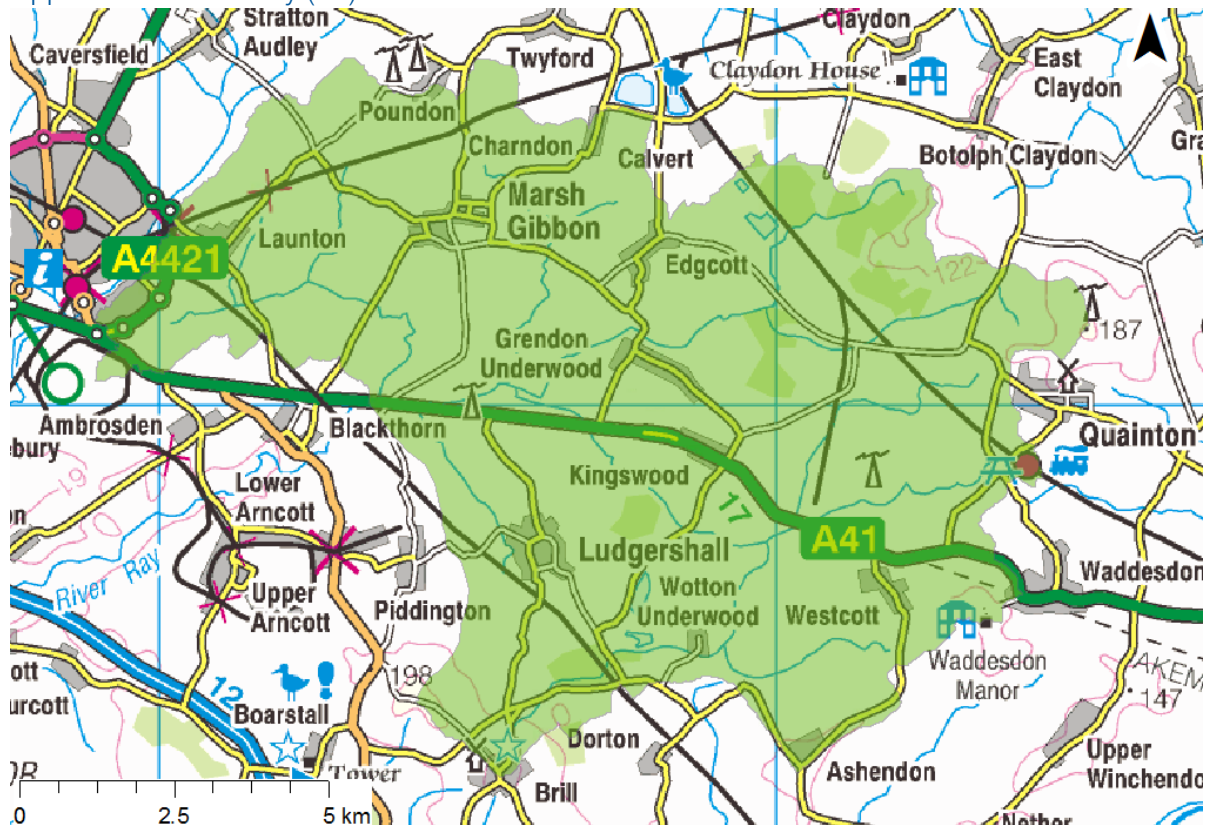


Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345



This is a detailed road map of the Chipping Norton area in Oxfordshire, England. The map shows a network of roads, including major routes like the A41, A421, and A44. Key locations such as Chipping Norton, Bicester, and Woodstock are clearly marked. The map also includes a scale bar (0 to 10 km) and a north arrow.

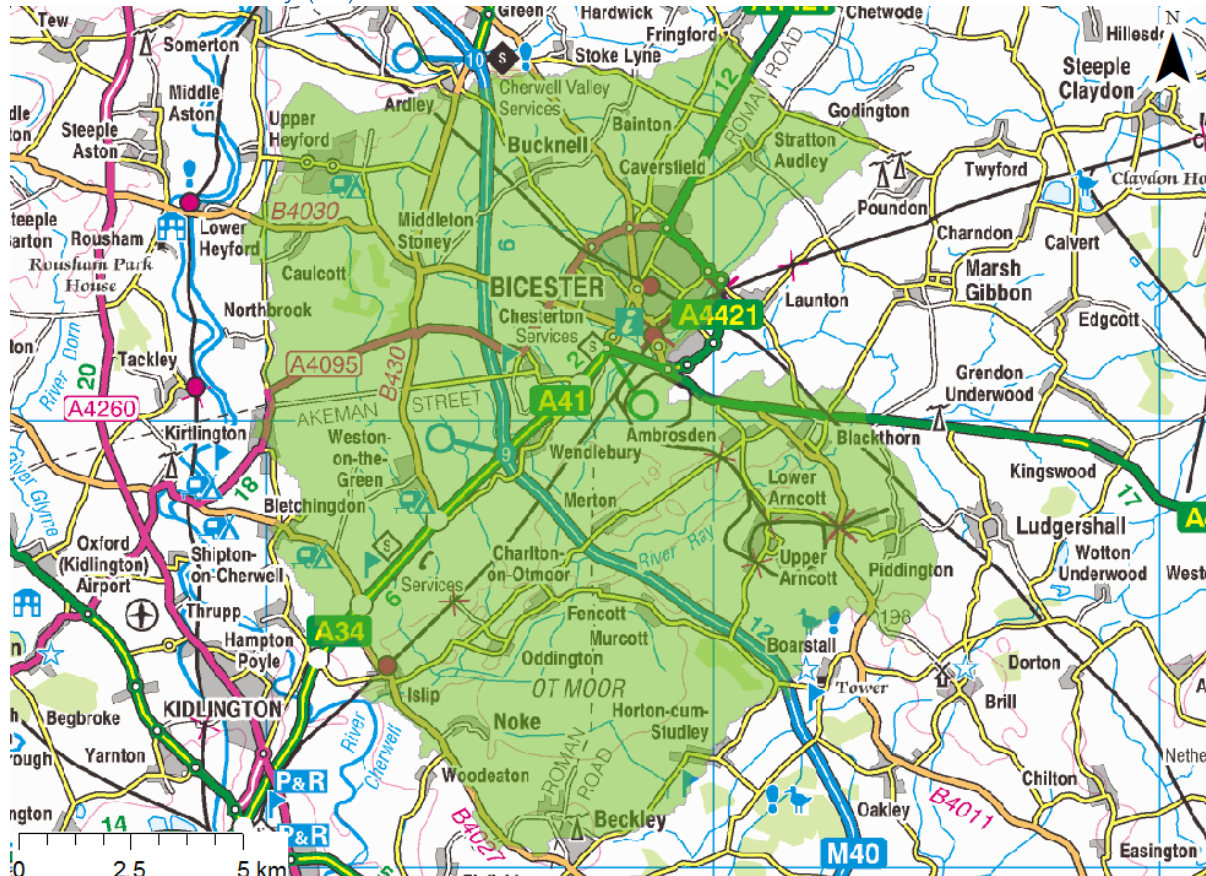
## Upper Oxfordshire Ray (27): surface water – herbicides



38

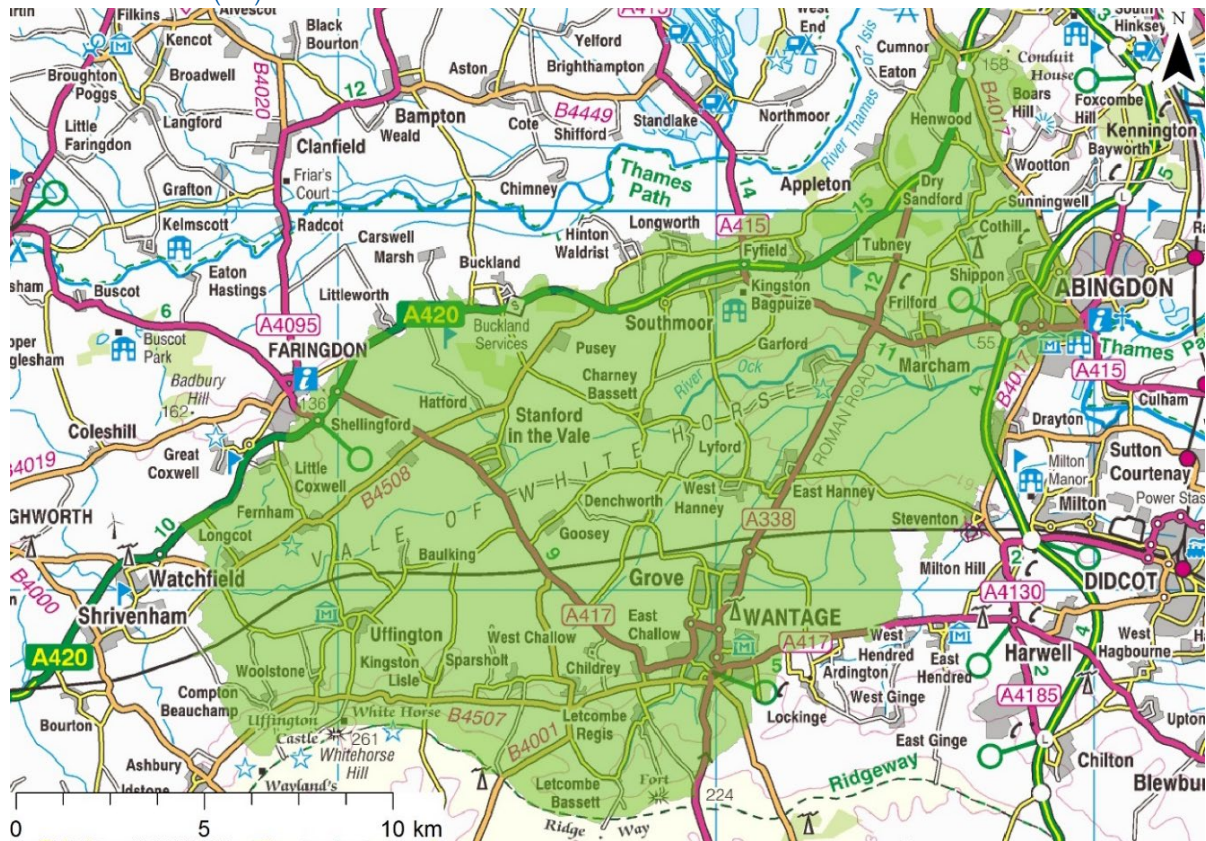


### Lower Oxfordshire Ray (28): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

### Ock catchment (29): surface water – herbicides

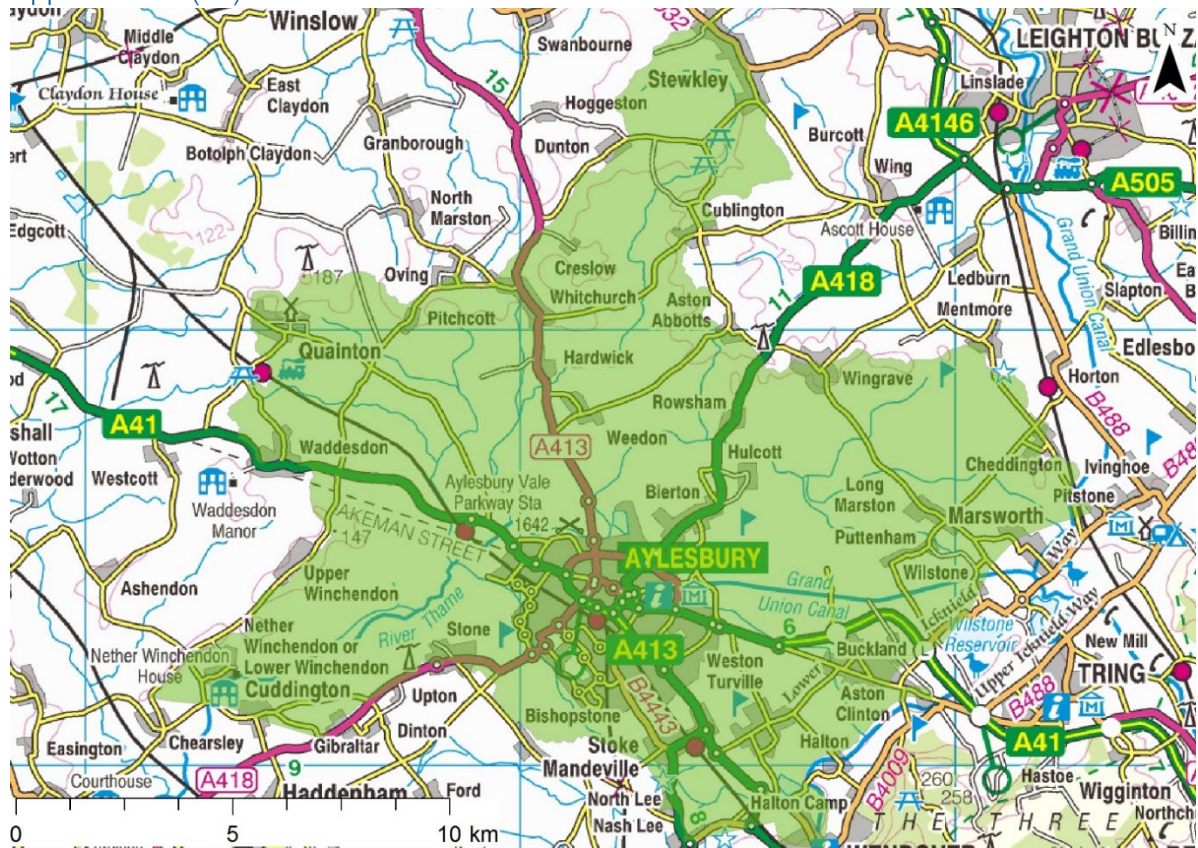


Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345



This map shows the Oxford region in England. Major roads include the A40, A34, A415, A412, A4074, A329, and A4095. The River Thames flows through the area, with several tributaries like the River Wytham and River Cherwell. Towns and villages shown include Witney, Abingdon, Oxford, and many others. The map also shows the M40 motorway and the A4095 road. A scale bar at the bottom indicates distances from 0 to 10 km. A north arrow is located in the top right corner.

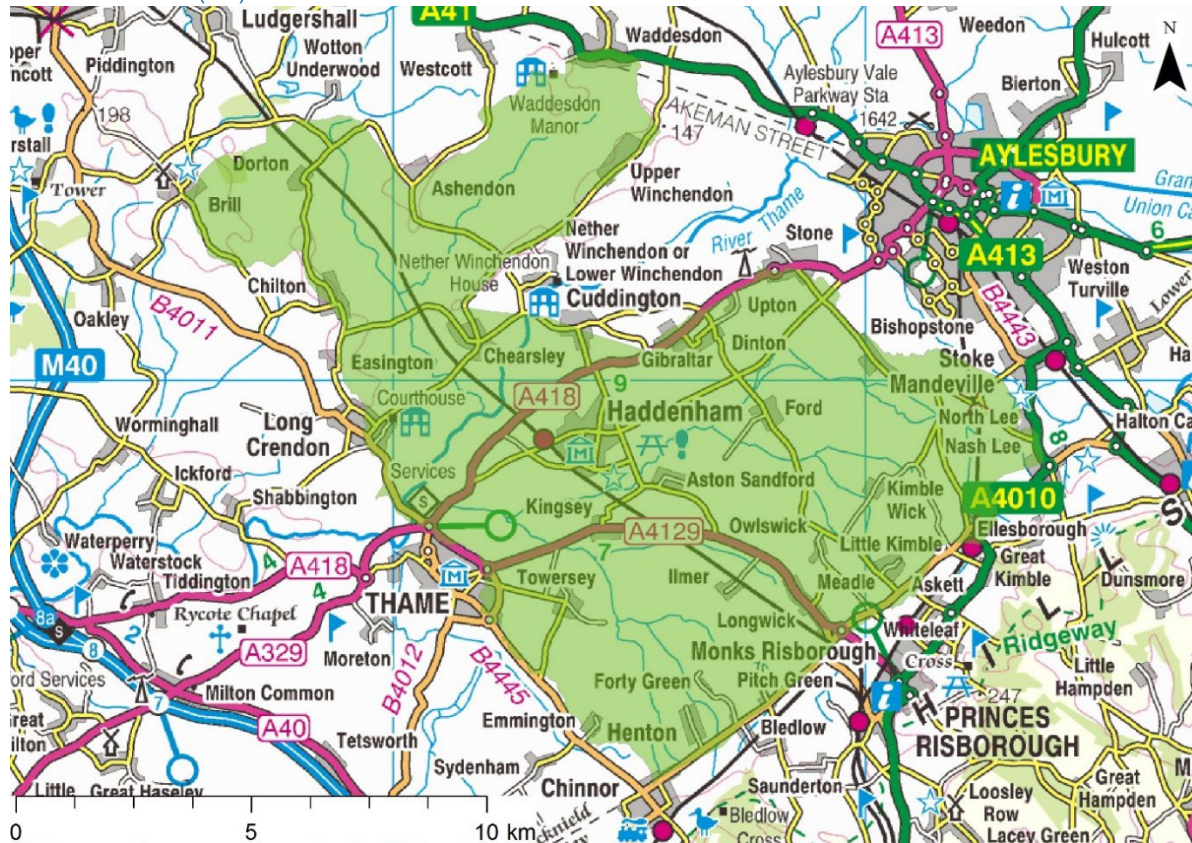
Upper Thame (31): surface water – herbicides



40



### Middle Thame (32): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

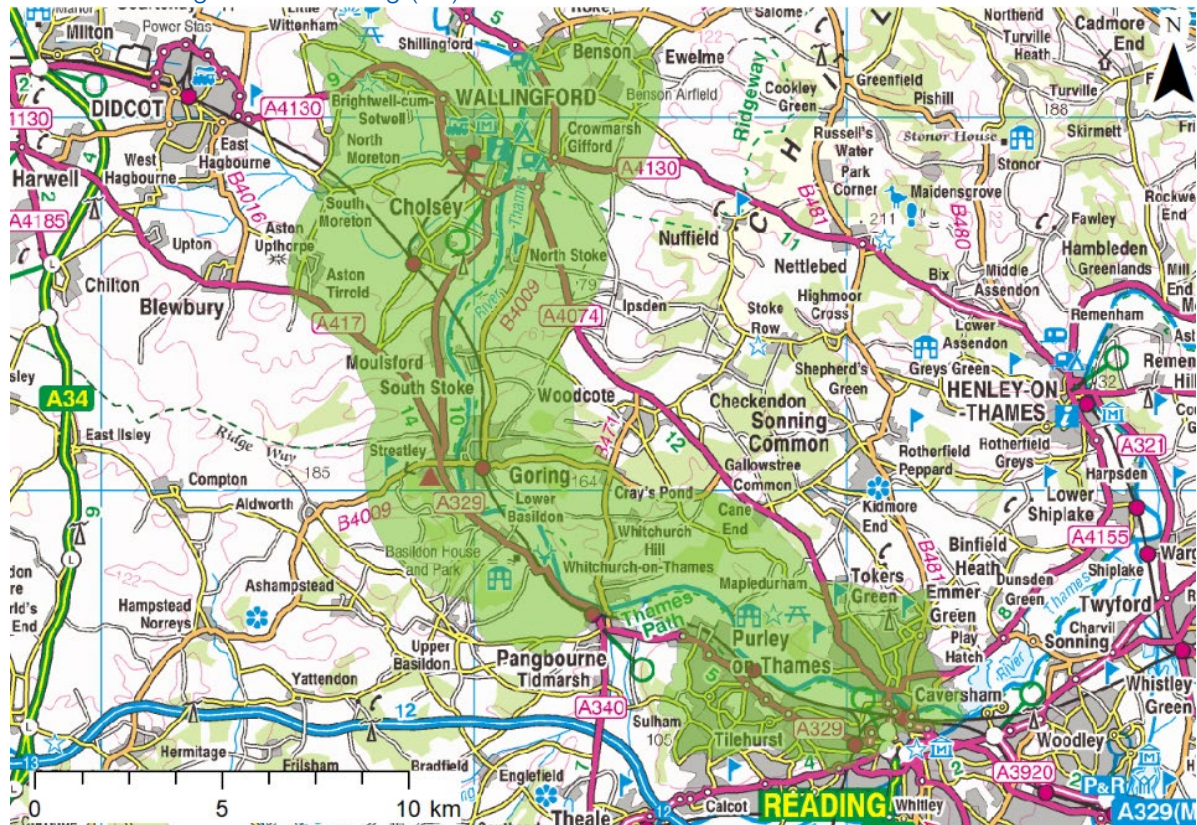
### Lower Thame (33): surface water – herbicides



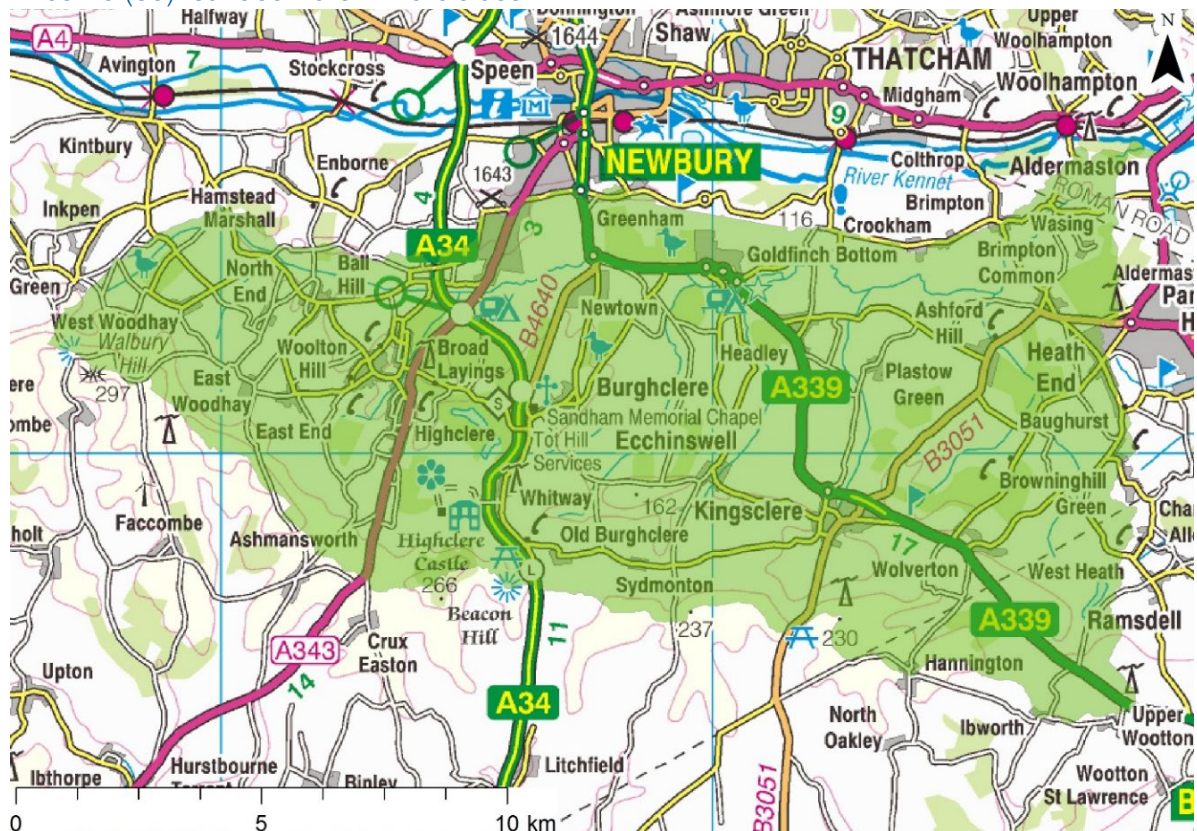
Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345



Thames Wallingford to Reading (34): surface water – herbicides



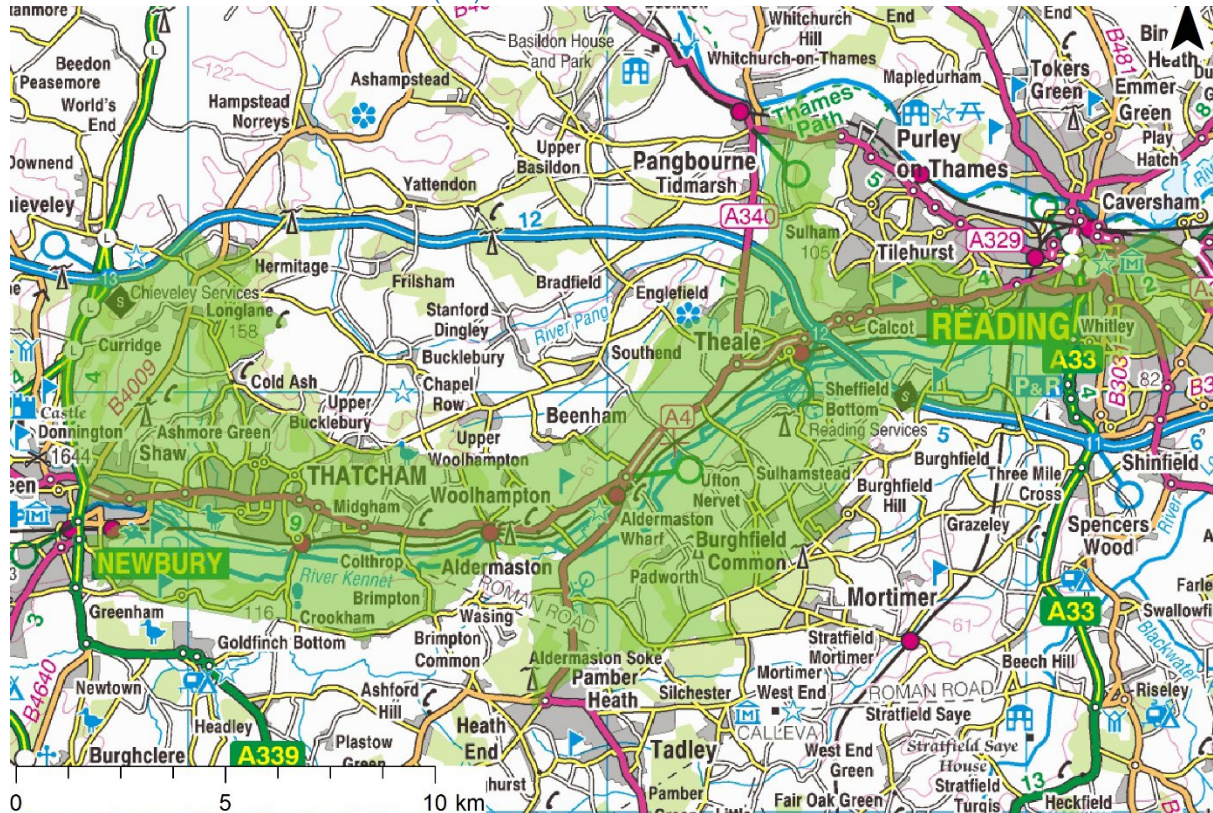
Enborne (35): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

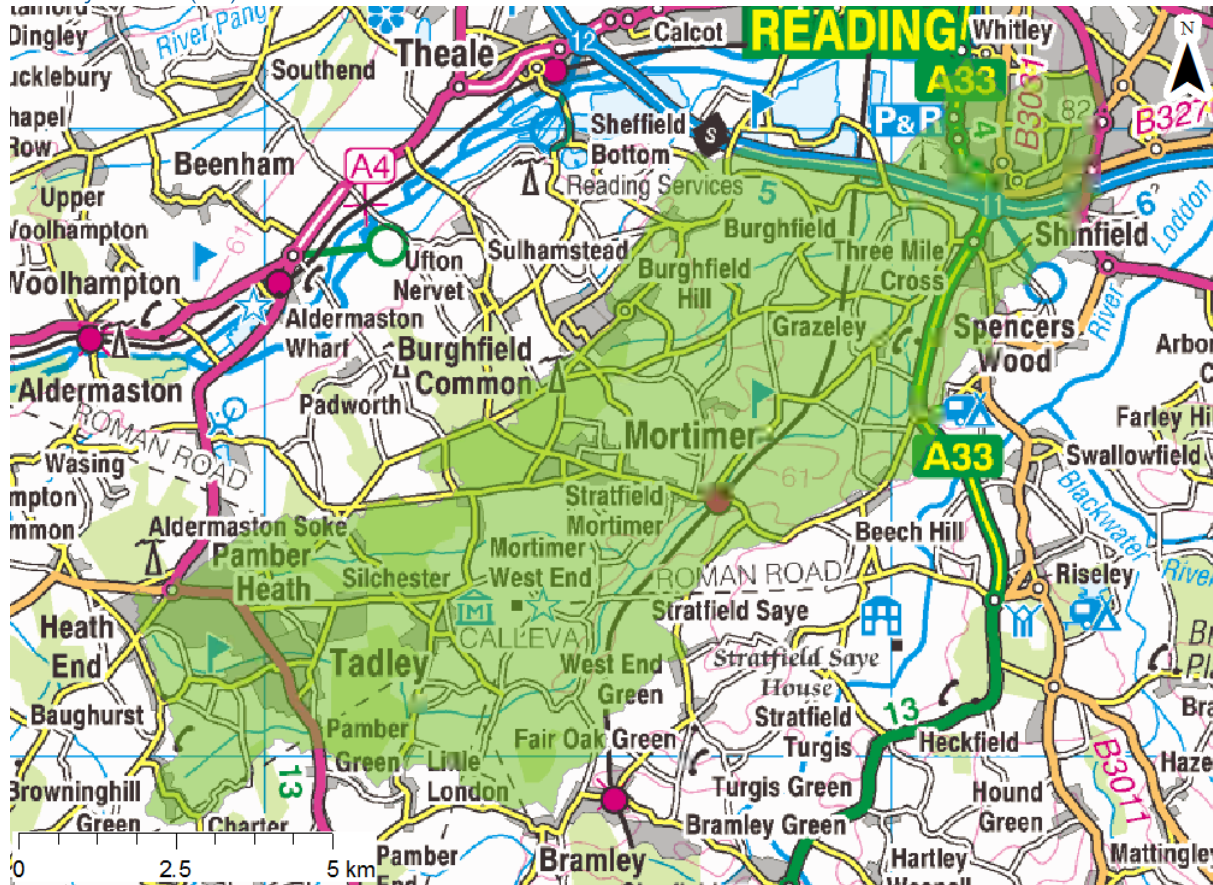


### Lower Kennet and Sulham Brook (36): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

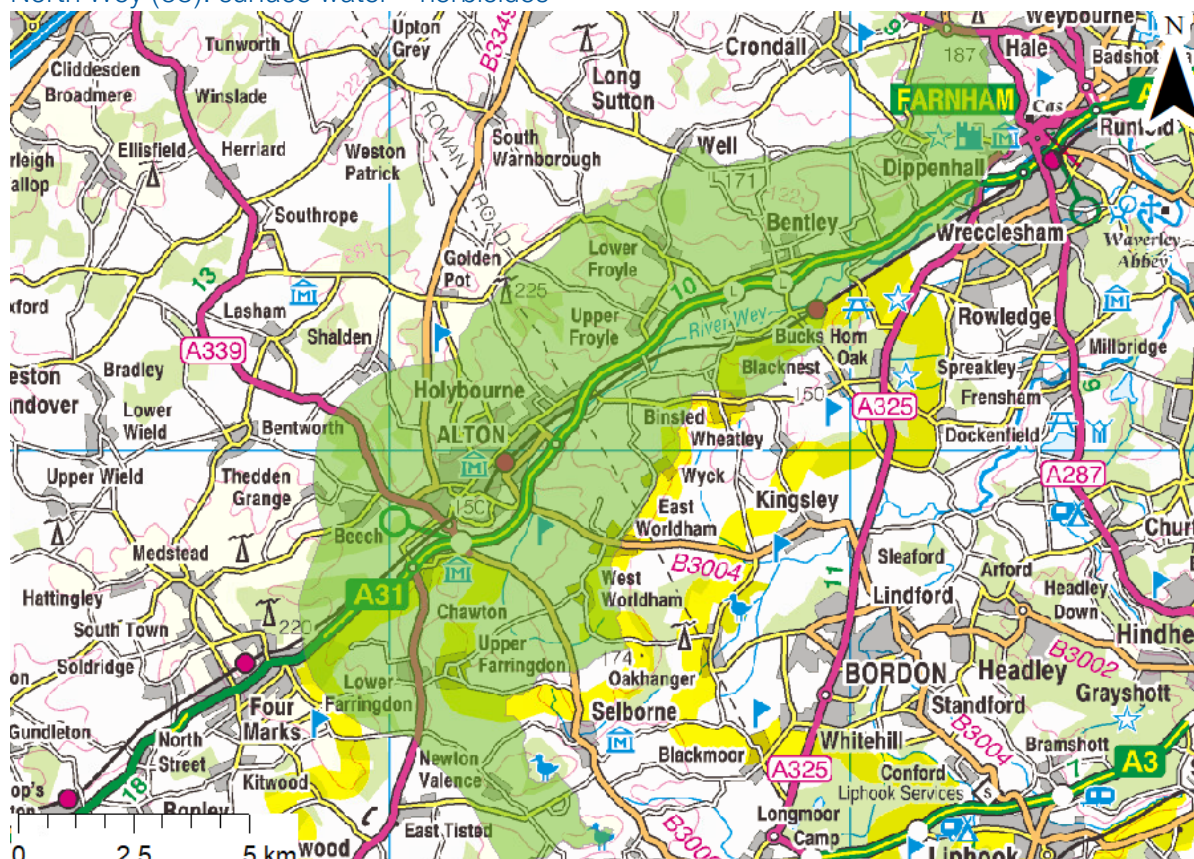
### Foudry Brook (37): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

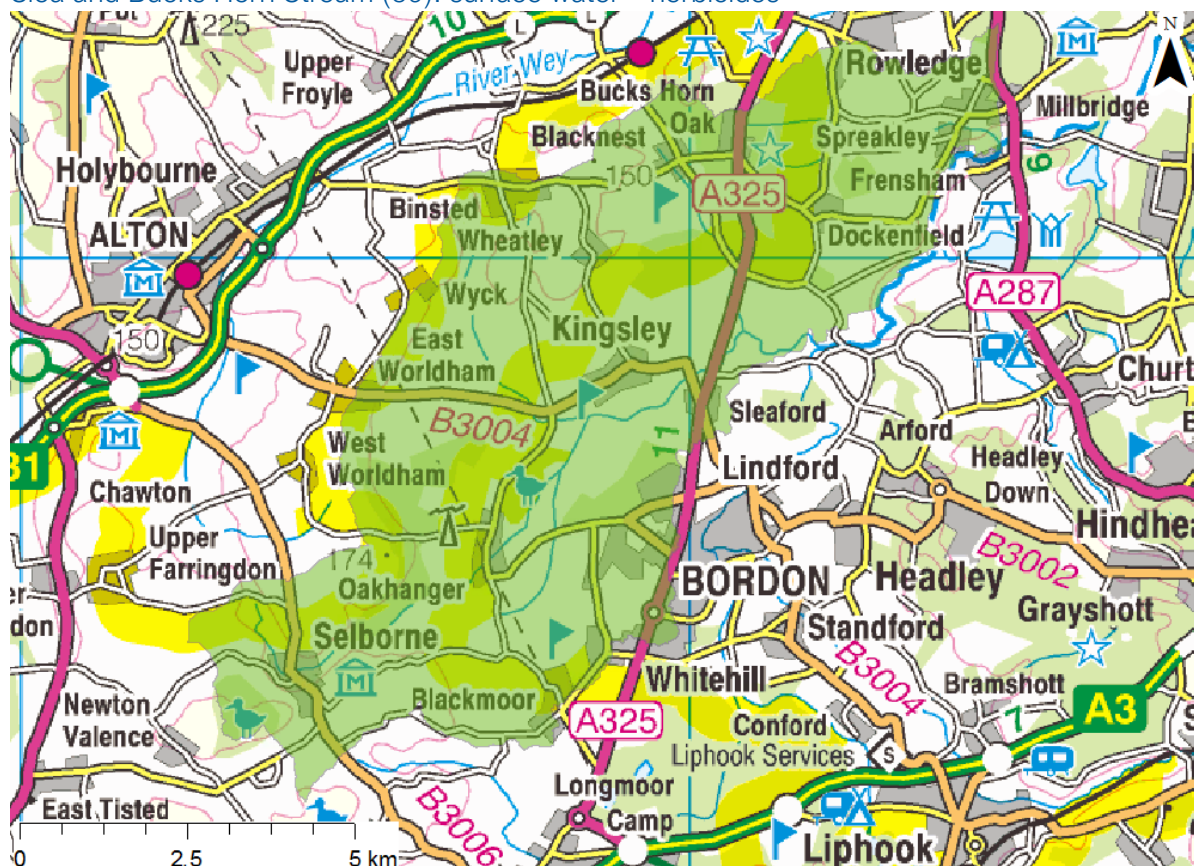


### North Wey (38): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

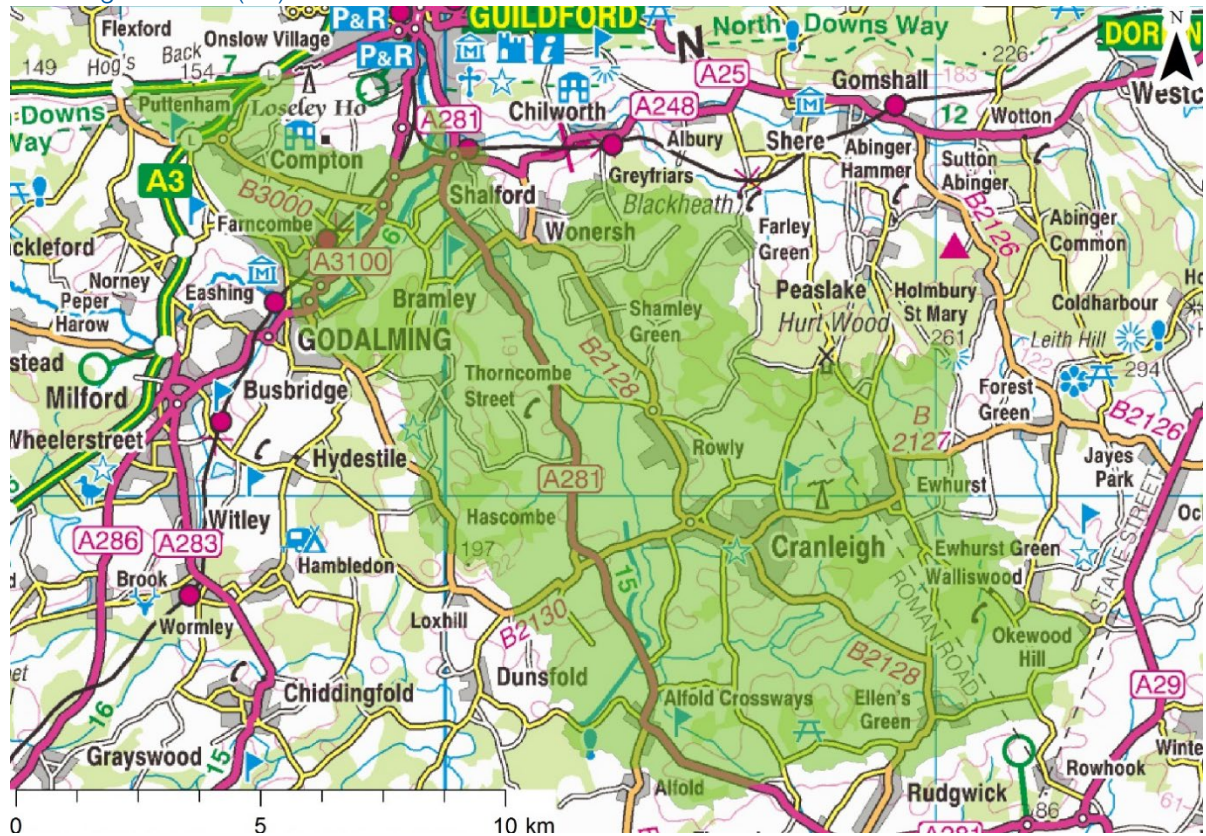
### Slea and Bucks Horn Stream (39): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

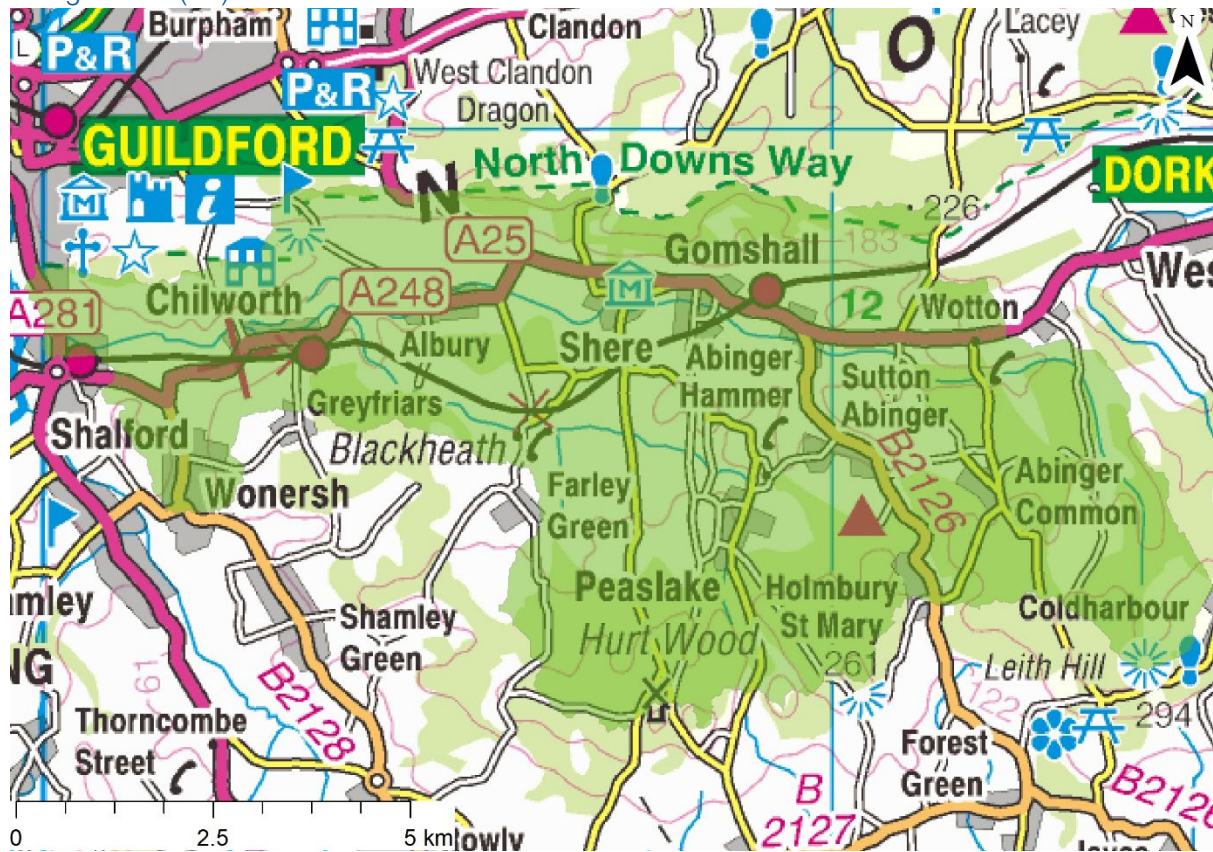


Cranleigh Waters (40): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

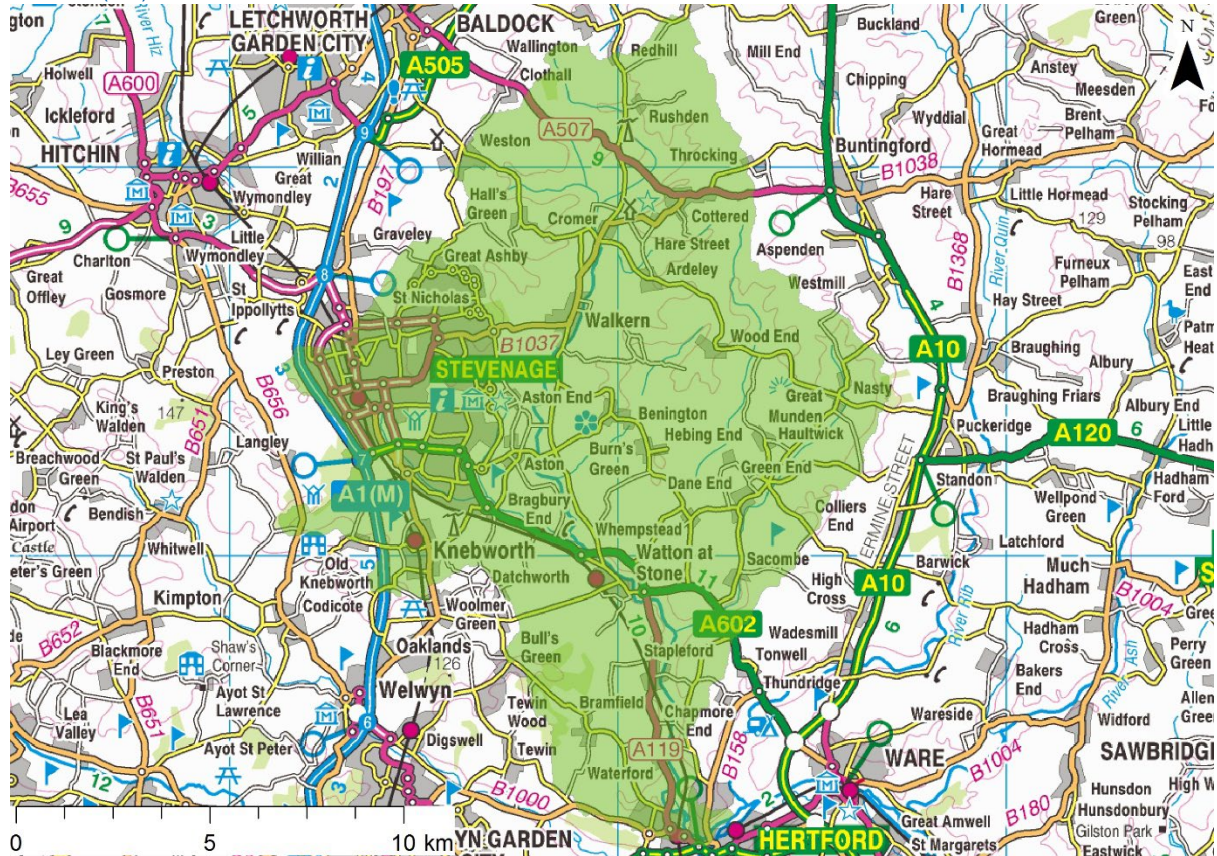
Tillingbourne (41): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

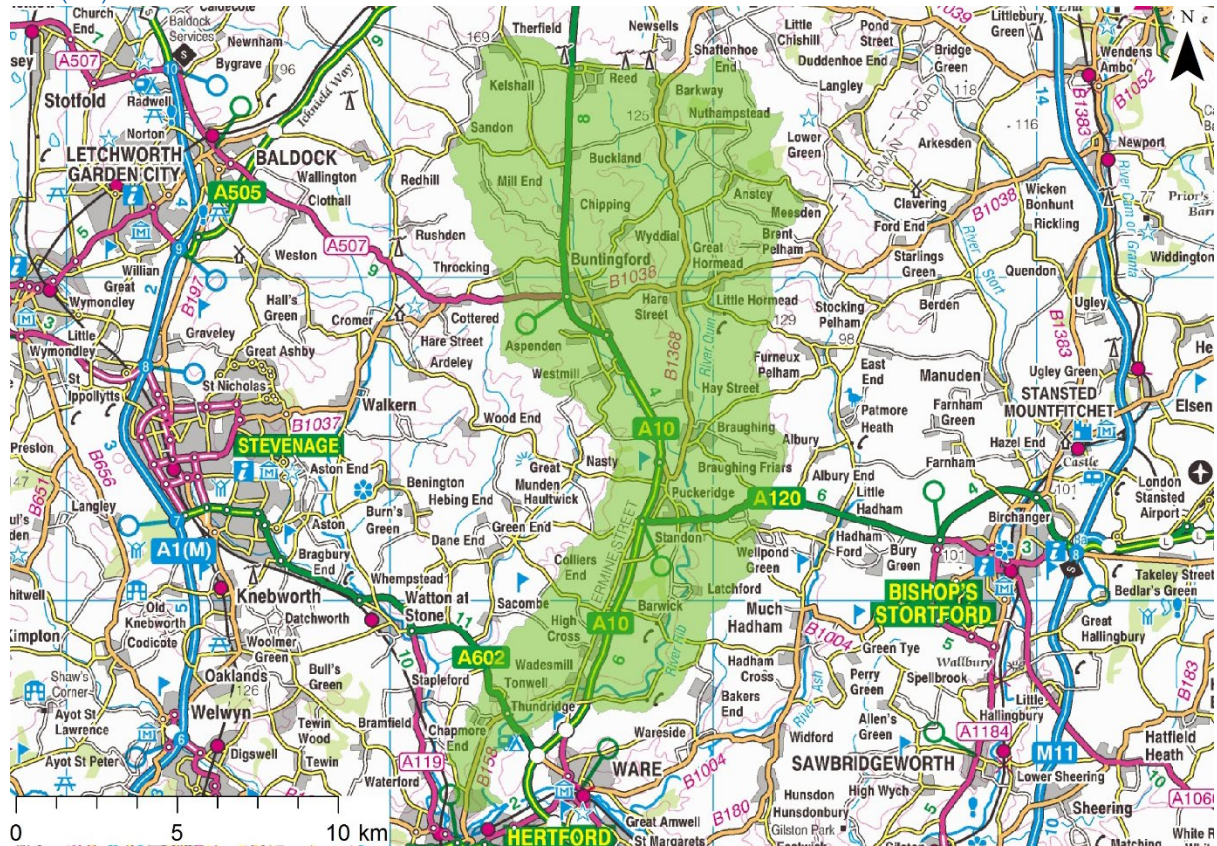


### Beane (42): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

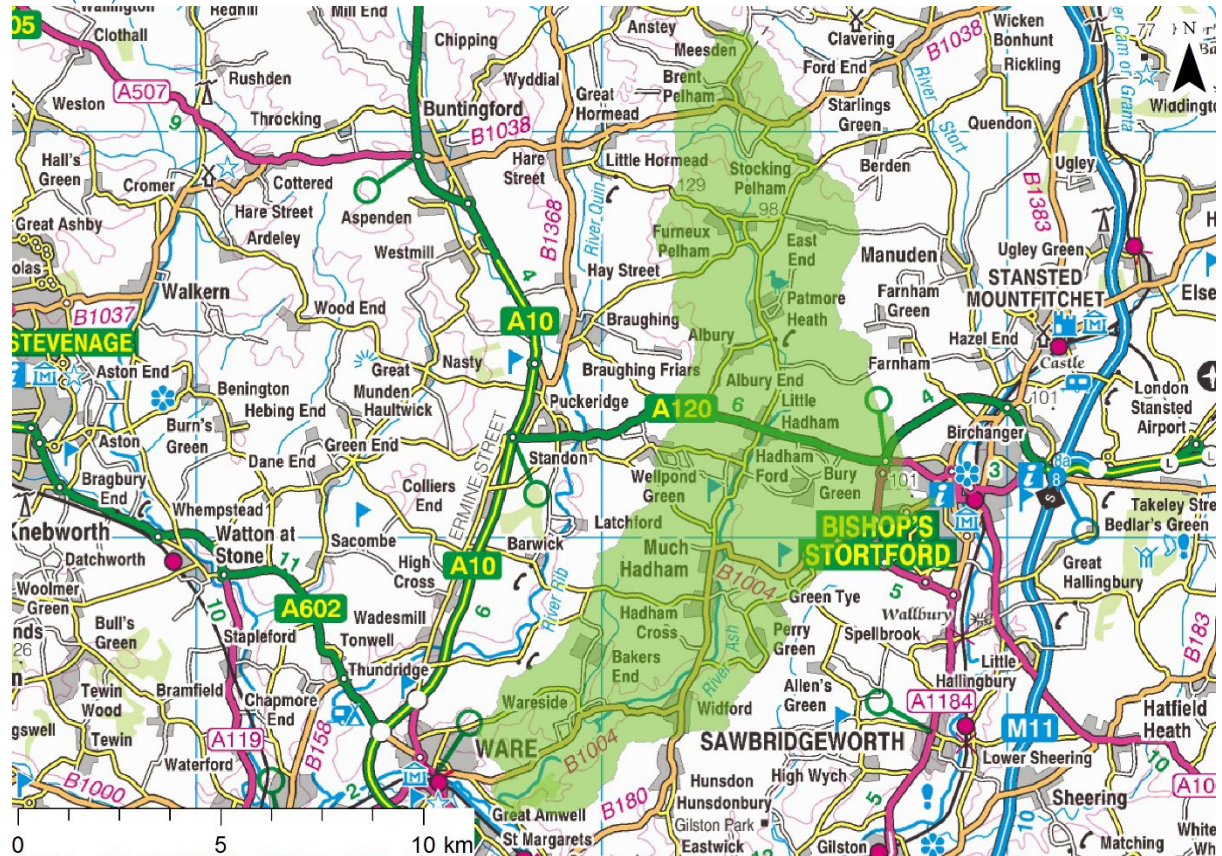
### Rib (43): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

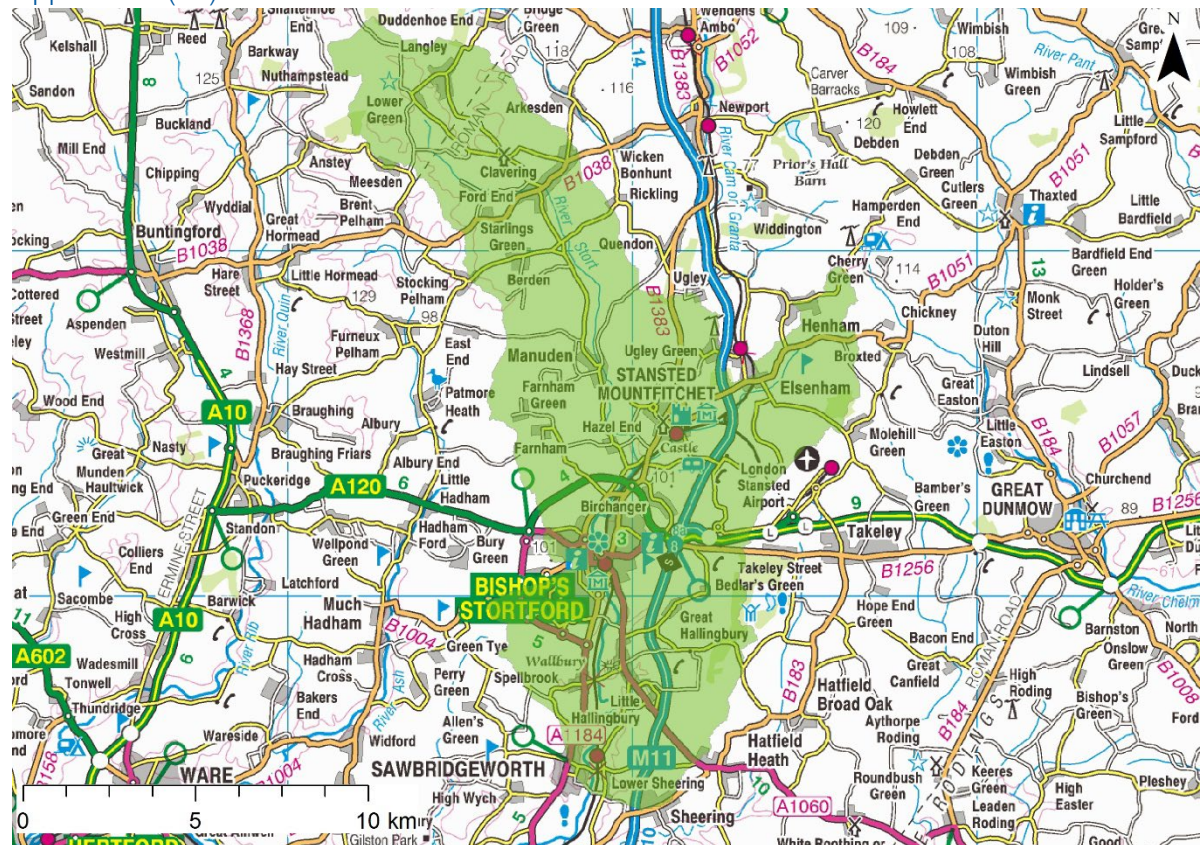


### Ash (44): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

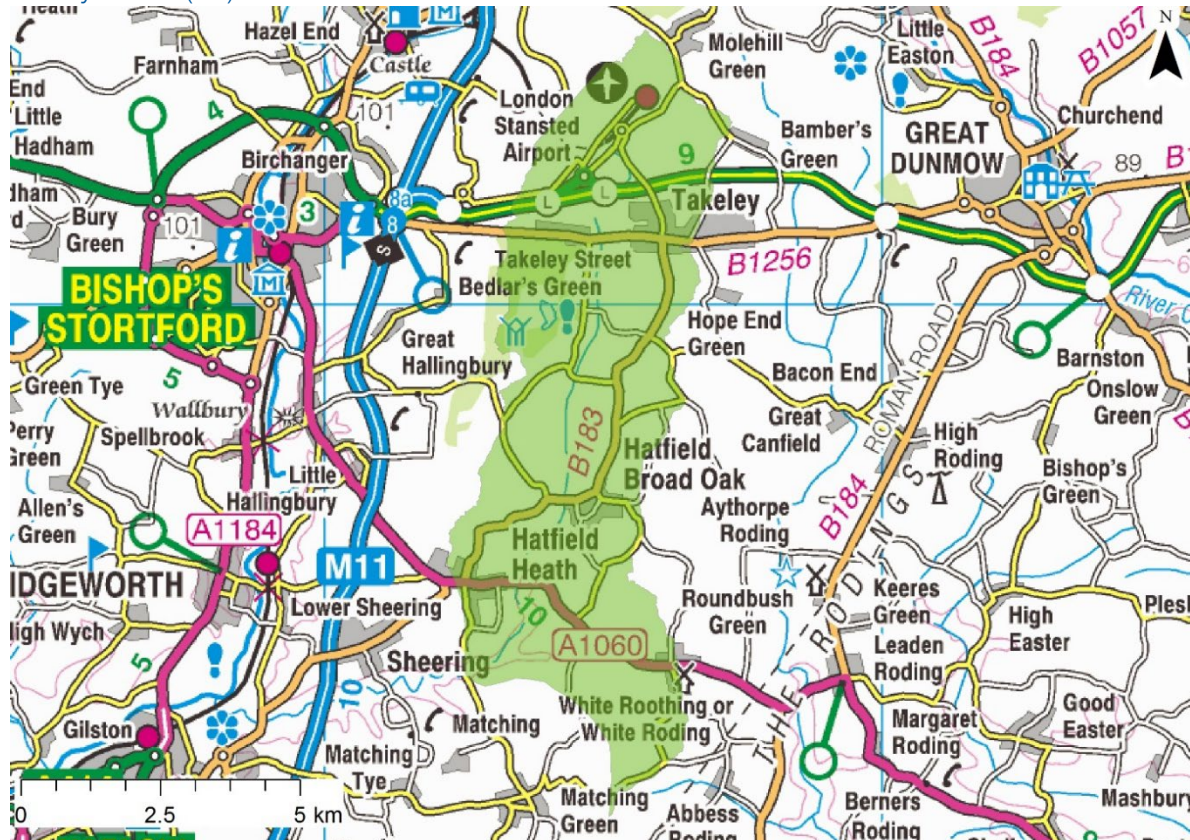
### Upper Stort (45): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

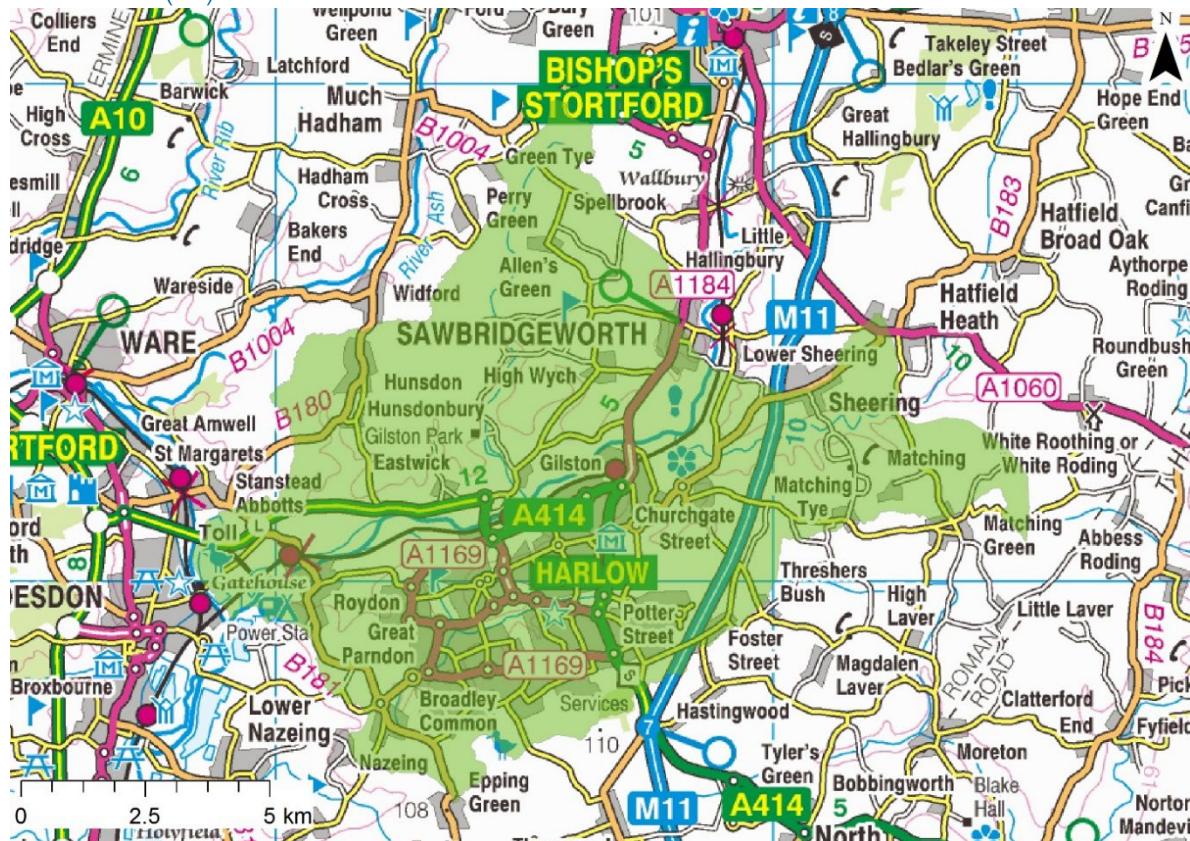


Pincey Brook (46): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

Lower Stort (47): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345



Cobbins Brook (48): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345

Lower Lee (49): surface water – herbicides



Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of the Controller of H.M Stationery Office License Number 100019345



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How do I know if I'm eligible for the scheme?

To be eligible, you must be:

- Aged 18 or over on the date you submit your application
- Farming within a Thames Water priority catchment where at least one of the following applies:
  - Farming any amount of land in a groundwater priority catchment,
  - Farming at least 5ha of land, of which at least some is within the Upper Cherwell catchment
  - Farming at least 5ha of land, of which at least some is arable and within any other surface water priority catchment.
- The landowner, land manager, farmer, tenant or contractor of the land where the activity is to take place, authorised with all the appropriate consents to carry out the activity and take part in the scheme
- Proposing a project activity to benefit water quality on land that is within the Thames Water priority area

Maps of the Thames Water priority areas where the Catchment Fund is available can be found from page 30. If you're unsure about your eligibility, please contact the local project partner or the Thames Water Catchment Projects team using the contact details on page 1.

### What's the availability of the fund?

- There will be a maximum funding amount of £15,000 per farm business (SBI) per funding cycle.
- Only one successful application can be made per farming business (SBI) per calendar year. (If you apply early in the year and are successful, you cannot apply again later in the year. If you apply early in the year and are not successful, you may apply again later in the year.)
- Late applications will not be considered for the scheme.
- You may apply for multiple items under the scheme, but they must be all submitted under the one application.
- Activities included in an agreement can be spread over several years, but the total funding value of any single agreement will be a maximum of £15,000.
- Some options will be funded at a fixed rate stated in the additional information sheet (eg £34/m<sup>2</sup> for concreting your yard). Other options will be funded at 50% of the total cost for your specific planned activity, as also stated in the additional information sheet, for example 50% of the cost of equipment. For both types of options, and any combination of options, Thames Water is offering a maximum of £15,000 funding in total. If the total cost of your project is greater, you'll need to cover the additional amount yourself.
- There is no minimum amount of funding that can be applied for.
- Funds are only available for applications proposing activity within Thames Water target areas.
- Thames Water won't fund any activity directly linked to a legal or regulatory requirement.
- Thames Water won't fund any project (or item of it) which is receiving funding from another scheme for the same items.
- Thames Water won't fund the cost of maintenance or wear and tear or direct replacements of capital items.

### Am I guaranteed funding from the Thames Water Catchment Fund?

No. Submitting an application doesn't guarantee you will receive funding. We may decline an application if it's not expected to give enough water quality benefit and/or if we're unable to provide funding, regardless of whether the application meets the eligibility and subsequent assessment criteria. The scheme is competitive and we might be unable to provide funding if we receive a large number of applications in any one application period.

### Can I apply if only part of my farm falls within Thames Water's Catchment Fund target area?

Yes. However, you must be proposing project activity that will be located within the Thames Water Catchment Fund target area.

If you're unsure, contact your local project partner or the Thames Water Catchment Projects team using the contact details on page 1 or the additional information sheet.

### How much funding could I receive?

A maximum of £15,000 per farming business (SBI) per funding cycle.

### What about VAT?

In all cases, your activity is not a service being supplied to Thames Water, but voluntary activity that Thames Water is supporting, so VAT does not apply.

If you're applying for measures with a specified payment rate, eg £129 per hectare per year for winter cover crops, then this is the exact amount of funding you'll receive.

If you're applying for measures funded at 50% of the total cost, we'll need to make sure we've got the full breakdown and we'll need to know if you're VAT registered. Please attach evidence of the costs (including VAT where appropriate) to support your application. For these measures:

- If your farm business is not VAT registered, VAT can be included in the total cost you're requesting funding towards, provided the £15,000 limit is not exceeded.
- If your farm business is VAT registered, you can recover any VAT from HMRC, so VAT should not be included in the total costs you're requesting funding towards.

### How will I get paid?

Once both you and Thames Water have signed the funding agreement, we'll get our finance team involved. They'll send you a form that'll take around three minutes to complete asking for information including but not limited to your bank account name, sort code and account number. This enables us to be able to pay you via BACS at the appropriate time.

### When will I get paid?

Funding will be released once you've reached a funding milestone and/or finished the activity, for example once you've received and paid for equipment or reached the end date for winter cover crops. This can happen at any point, as long as the activity has been completed.



Once you have reached a funding milestone and/or finished the activity, send your completed milestone form to [catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk). We may ask to visit in person to see what's been done, or ask you to send us copies of documents or evidence of activity. We'll confirm in writing, either via email or letter, if we're satisfied that the activity has been completed in-line with the agreement.

Funding will be paid within 60 calendar days of the end of the month that you get written confirmation that we're satisfied that the activity has been completed in accordance with the agreement.

#### [Am I entitled to apply for funding from other organisations?](#)

Yes. But the additional funding can't be used for the same activity (or any item of it) as set out in your application form or funding agreement (whether this is before or after the date of acceptance of your application) – this is known as 'double funding'.

#### [Can I purchase on finance?](#)

Yes, you can. If you do purchase items on finance, you'll need to pay off twice as much as the funding we're offering before we can release our funding to you. For example, if we're providing £15,000 of funding, we'll need proof that you've paid at least £30,000 before our funding can be released. Any finance agreement must be held with a reputable lender.

#### [What is the opening/closing date of the application window?](#)

The closing date for applications is on the additional information sheet. Applications can be submitted at any time before this deadline, and we may get in touch to discuss your application, but the full review process will start once the application window has closed.

#### [Where can I get an application form?](#)

Get in touch with your project partner or the Thames Water Catchment Projects team using the contact details on page 1 or the additional information sheet.

#### [What do I need to include with my application?](#)

Your application should be supported by maps indicating the location of proposed activity and any local watercourses, ditches or drains, a map of your farm/field boundaries, photos showing the proposed areas for improvement (where applicable), plans for any proposed infrastructure (where applicable), any necessary permissions, consents, licences and authorisations (where applicable) to undertake the Project, and any other evidence and documents that may support your application. Check the option specification for specific details to include.

#### [Who do I speak to about my application?](#)

Contact your project partner or the Thames Water Catchment Projects team using the details on page 1 or the additional information sheet.

### How do I submit my application form?

Application forms should be emailed to [catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk), either from the applicant's email address, or with them copied in. Feel free to copy in your local project partner too.

### Will I get a notification that my application's been received?

Yes. All applicants will get a notification of receipt from one of the team, but this isn't automated so please be patient.

### What factors are taken into account when applications are assessed?

The scoring matrix will consider the potential impact of the measures selected, area of activity and relative risk of the location. The matrix has been designed to ensure that funding will go to projects that offer the greatest water quality benefit.

### Can the location of the Catchment Fund items/options be changed after submitting the application?

Yes. But please tell Thames Water about any changes to your application as soon as possible, stating the reasons why, as this could affect the final decision. If your application has already been successful and an agreement has been signed, you can't change your project (or any part of it) without prior written consent from Thames Water. A failure to obtain our consent about any changes could invalidate your funding agreement.

### When will I know if my application is successful?

Thames Water will begin reviewing applications after the deadline, aiming to have all agreements in place within four months. You'll be notified in writing if your application is successful and an agreement will be sent to you to sign. If it's unsuccessful, we'll explain the reasons why.

### Can I withdraw my application after I have been successful or after I've signed an agreement?

Yes. But please notify Thames Water in writing as soon as possible.

### How long do I have to complete the activity after being notified my application has been successful?

Different options have different timescales for completion, and some have milestones along the way which will release partial funding to you. The timescales for each activity can be found in the Options available, and the key dates for your specific case will be stated in your individual funding agreement.

### If my application was not successful will this affect future applications?

No. You're welcome to re-apply. All applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, alongside others received at the same time.



### What happens if the activity is not completed on time, or doesn't meet the required specifications?

It's really important to let us know as soon as possible if there are any issues or concerns about the completion of your project, so we can discuss these and agree how to proceed.

If vegetation that has been planted (eg cover crops or legume leys) has not established and will not achieve the expected benefits for water quality, generally the expectation is that you re-plant at your own expense. Please get in touch to discuss individual cases.

The Thames Water Catchment Projects Teams and/or your local project partner may get in touch from time to time to see how the project is going.

### Will my farm get a visit on completion?

Checks will be carried out by Thames Water and/or our project partners to make sure that all the funded activity has been completed as agreed. A proportion of farms will be visited to verify completion, and we may contact you within five years and request to visit or for you to send us documents or evidence for auditing.

# Terms and Conditions

Application to and participation in the Catchment Fund is governed by these Terms and Conditions. If you apply for funding under the Catchment Fund you are deemed to have read and understood these Terms and Conditions.

## Definitions

**Agreement** – consisting of these Terms and Conditions, the specific funding agreement document provided by Thames Water and signed by both parties, and any additional written confirmation from Thames Water

**Funding** – the sum to be paid to the Participant recipient by Thames Water in accordance with these terms and conditions

**Participant** – shall mean the landowner, land manager, farmer, tenant or contractor

**Project** – An option or group of options implemented under the Catchment Fund

**Relevant Site** – the farm or other approved site at which the Project is to be carried out

**Thames Water target area** – an area and/or catchment where Thames Water is offering the Catchment Fund.

## 1. The Catchment Fund

### 1.1. What does The Catchment Fund cover?

1.1.1. The Catchment Fund provides funding that supports improvements to farm infrastructure, equipment, land or livestock management and/or education activities that reduce the loss of specific pollutants to groundwater sources and to surface water sources used for potable supply. Measures being promoted by the Catchment Fund are presented in the Catchment Fund Handbook, which can be accessed at <https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/responsibility/smarter-water-catchments>. The handbook includes a summary table of measures and more detailed specifications for each measure. Funding for activities that reduce loss of the targeted pollutants to relevant water sources but are not listed in the handbook may still be supported by the Catchment Fund by making a special case as a 'Farmer Innovation'.

1.1.2. The Catchment Fund will not support works that are a legislative requirement or industry obligation and will only support good agricultural practice. Funding will not cover maintenance, replacement due to normal wear and tear or existing/partially implemented works.

### 1.2. How much funding is available?

1.2.1. There is no minimum funding amount. The maximum available is £15,000.00 per farm business (Single Business Identifier) per application. Each farm business can have a maximum of one successful application per calendar year. Any single application may include funding for multiple measures, and can include activity spanning multiple years.

1.2.2. The accompanying information booklet and application form show the funding rates available towards each activity through the Catchment Fund.

1.2.3. In all cases, the activity you're undertaking is not a service being supplied to Thames Water, but voluntary activity that Thames Water is supporting, and therefore the activity does not attract VAT.

(a) If you're applying for measures with a specified payment rate, eg £129 per hectare per year for winter cover crops, then this is the exact amount of funding you will receive.

(b) If you're applying for measures funded at 50% of the total cost, we'll need to make sure we've got the full breakdown and we'll need to know if you're VAT registered. Please



attach evidence of the costs (including VAT where appropriate) to support your application. For these measures:

- i. If your farm business is not VAT registered, VAT can be included in the total cost you are requesting funding towards, provided the £15,000 limit is not exceeded.
- ii. If your farm business is VAT registered, any VAT should be recovered by you from HMRC, and therefore VAT should not be included in the total costs you are requesting funding towards.

### 1.3. What are the eligibility criteria?

1.3.1. To be eligible to participate in The Catchment Fund and apply for funding, you must be:

- (a) Aged 18 or over on the date you submit your application;
- (b) Farming within a Thames Water priority catchment where at least one of the following applies:
  - i. Farming any amount of land in a groundwater priority catchment;
  - ii. Farming at least 5ha of land, of which at least some is within the Upper Cherwell catchment. Thames Water will reserve the right to consider smaller areas of land where applicable; smaller areas of land may not be excluded but will be assessed lower in priority;
  - iii. Farming at least 5ha of land, of which at least some is arable and within any other surface water priority catchment. Thames Water will reserve the right to consider smaller areas of land where applicable; smaller areas of land may not be excluded but will be assessed lower in priority.
- (c) Within the definition of a Participant, as outlined in the definitions on page 55, authorised with all the appropriate consents, including landowner permission where relevant.
- (d) Proposing a Project activity to benefit water quality on land within a Thames Water priority area;

1.3.2. These criteria may be updated or changed from time to time.

### 1.4. Which applications are more likely to be funded?

1.4.1. The Catchment Fund is a competitive scheme and all applications will be assessed against a scoring matrix; however we will take every farm's individual circumstances into account during this process. The matrix has been designed to ensure that funding will go to Projects that demonstrate the greatest water quality benefit. The scoring matrix takes into account:

- (a) Meeting the eligibility criteria
- (b) The scale and potential impact of the measures selected under the Project
- (c) Whether the proposed measures selected under the Project target the source, pathway or receptor of the pollutant
- (d) Proximity to watercourses (surface water catchments)
- (e) Modelled risk to Thames Water boreholes/abstractions (groundwater catchments)
- (f) Relative risk status of the catchment

1.4.2. We can't guarantee that your application will be successful. We may reject your application if it doesn't meet the eligibility criteria. We may not be able to provide funding, regardless of whether your application meets the eligibility criteria or technical requirements, if we receive a large number of applications in an application period.

## 1.5. Can I apply to other organisations for funding?

1.5.1. Nothing in these Terms and Conditions prevents you from applying to other organisations for funding. However, if another organisation provides you with funding (or any other form of financial assistance) for the same Project (or any item of it) as set out in your application form (whether you receive this other funding before or after we have accepted your application), you will not be eligible to receive funding from us under the Catchment Fund unless there are exceptional circumstances (see clause 1.5.3).

1.5.2. If your application has been successful under the Catchment Fund, you should not apply to another organisation for funding for the same Project (or any item of it), unless there are exceptional circumstances (see clause 1.5.3), as this could invalidate your funding under the Catchment Fund. If your application has not been successful under the Catchment Fund, you may apply to another organisation for funding.

1.5.3. In exceptional circumstances, we may agree to co-fund a Project with another organisation where there is clear benefit to do so for all parties. In such circumstances, we may amend/reduce the funding rates set out in the accompanying information booklet and application form. If you wish us to consider co-funding a Project with another organisation this must be clearly indicated in your application along with a statement explaining why you think this should be accepted.

## 2. Applications to The Catchment Fund

### 2.1. Who can apply?

2.1.1. You are welcome to apply for funding if your application meets the eligibility criteria set out in section 1.3. An application is more likely to be successful if the Project you are proposing meets the assessment criteria set out in section 1.4. Note that planning permissions or other consents may be required to implement a Project on your farm. This is your responsibility not Thames Water's. Please consult with relevant authorities to seek advice before submitting your application.

### 2.2. How do I apply?

2.2.1. If you'd like to apply to participate in The Catchment Fund, you must complete and submit the application form before the close of the application period and provide all information requested in the form. Application forms can be requested by getting in touch with your local project partner or contacting the Thames Water Catchment Projects team, using the details on page 1.

2.2.2. We may ask you for further information that we need to support your application. We won't be able to assess your application until you have provided all information requested.

2.2.3. Applications should be submitted to [catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk)

### 2.3. Who can help me with my application?

2.3.1. We encourage you to prepare your application in consultation with our local project partner in your area. Our project partners are familiar with the Catchment Fund and can work with you to identify options appropriate for your farm and most likely to meet the technical requirements with the greatest benefit to water quality. Although our project partners will provide support, you will be responsible for the content and submission of your application.



2.3.2. Contact details for your local project partner can be found in the accompanying information booklet.

#### 2.4. How many applications can I make?

2.4.1. You can make one application per farming business (SBI) per application period, subject to these Terms and Conditions. If you have multiple farm businesses, your local project partner will determine if they are separate farm businesses that may, at Thames Water's absolute discretion, allow you to make further applications – one per farm business – during one application period.

2.4.2. You may apply for multiple items under one application, but the combined amount funded will not exceed the £15,000 limit.

2.4.3. You can have a maximum of one successful application per calendar year. This means if you have already had a successful application in the current calendar year, a second application would not be eligible. If you have already had an unsuccessful application in the current calendar year, you can apply again.

#### 2.5. How do I know if I have been successful or not?

2.5.1. Once you have completed and submitted the Catchment Fund application form we'll notify you in writing if your application has been successful. We will then send you an Agreement to sign based on the information in your application form and these Terms and Conditions, and any other requirements that we may reasonably specify on a case-by-case basis.

2.5.2. If you have any queries about your application or our decision regarding your application, please contact our local project partner for your area (details can be found in the additional information sheet), or Thames Water directly at [catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:catchment.projects@thameswater.co.uk)

### 3. Your project

#### 3.1. When can I start my Project?

3.1.1. You should only start your Project once you have received written confirmation (which may include email) from us that your application has been successful, and you have signed and returned the Agreement. If you choose to start activity associated with a Project prior to such confirmation from us, you run the risk of not being entitled to the funding.

3.1.2. Please note that once your application for your Project has been accepted by us, you cannot change your Project (or any part of it) without our prior written consent. If for any reason you need to change any part of your Project, you must notify us in writing of the proposed change and the reasons therefore and wait for our written consent before implementing any changes. A failure to obtain our consent to such changes could invalidate your funding.

#### 3.2. Do I need to do anything else before I commence my Project?

3.2.1. You should check with relevant authorities (eg Local Planning Authority, Environment Agency or Natural England) to check if any permissions, approvals or consents are required before your Project is implemented. Before starting your Project, it's your responsibility to consider the need for, and where needed, put in place and/or comply with any or all of the following list, which is by no means exhaustive:

- (a) All necessary permissions (including planning permissions), consents, licences and authorisations to undertake the Project and any associated works at your farm
- (b) Guidance from the Environment Agency and Natural England for the implementation of your Project and any associated works, where applicable
- (c) Any further permissions, approvals and consents as reasonably requested by us.

### 3.3. Implementing your Project

3.3.1. Once you have signed your Agreement and obtained all required permissions, consents, licences and authorisations as set out in section 3.1 and section 3.2 above, you will need to implement your Project as set out in your application form and Agreement, and in accordance with the following criteria:

- (a) The implementation of your Project must take place either on your farm, which should be land that you either own or have a leasehold interest in or on a farm where you are contracted to carry out work
- (b) You must ensure that the area on which measures are to be situated or installed is suitable
- (c) You may choose to carry out the Project yourself or use a third party. If you use a third party then you will be responsible for them, and for all payments to them
- (d) You must ensure that all equipment is of satisfactory quality and fit for purpose and has a minimum design life of ten (10) years or such longer period as prescribed by applicable law, regulation or code of practice
- (e) You must ensure that all works are carried out in a workmanlike manner with reasonable skill and care and all relevant authorities are notified, where applicable.

3.3.2. You must at all times comply with, and ensure that the Project and any equipment and works comply with, all planning permissions and all applicable laws, regulations, codes of practice, industry guidance and standards in force from time to time, including all applicable:

- (a) British Standards
- (b) Environmental legislation and guidance and codes of practice issued by the Environment Agency and Natural England
- (c) Health and Safety legislation and codes of practice issued by the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) (and you are responsible for any required notifications to the HSE for construction works)
- (d) Agricultural Codes of Good Practice, including Protecting our Water, Soil and Air: A Code of Good Agricultural Practice for farmers, growers and land managers.

3.3.3. You must collect and keep all supporting documents and evidence relating to the Project for a period of five years from the date the Project is completed in accordance with section 3.5 below, including:

- (a) All invoices and payment receipts (which must be addressed to you and not dated prior to the date of the signed Agreement - you will not be entitled to claim any payments in breach of this requirement) related to the Project
- (b) All consents, planning permissions, licences and authorisations
- (c) Photographic evidence demonstrating the implementation of the Project in accordance with these Terms and Conditions (including before and after photographs taken from the same position) where appropriate
- (d) Any further documentation as requested by us.

3.3.4. You must promptly inform us of any changes to your Project or any of the details set out in your application form.



### 3.4. Risk in your Project

3.4.1. You acknowledge and agree that you are undertaking the Project at your own cost, expense and risk and that our primary responsibility is to make the funding payment to you in accordance with these Terms and Conditions. You also acknowledge that you have not relied on any statement (written or verbal) made by Thames Water or any of its partners about the technical or operational suitability of the measures comprised in your Project.

### 3.5. Completion of your Project

3.5.1. Once you have completed your Project or reached an appropriate milestone, you will need to notify us and provide us with all of the supporting documents and evidence set out in section 3.3.3 above, together with any other documents and information that we may reasonably request to verify that the Project has been completed in accordance with these Terms and Conditions. A failure to provide all supporting information and evidence might mean you're not eligible to receive funding (in whole or part).

3.5.2. We, or our project partners, may then arrange a time and date to visit your farm to inspect the Project. If we're satisfied that you have completed the Project in accordance with these Terms and Conditions, we'll provide you with written confirmation.

### 3.6. Your continuing obligations

3.6.1. You will, at your cost and expense, ensure that all technology, equipment, or infrastructure installed or purchased as part of your Project:

- (a) is properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and all applicable laws;
- (b) is adequately insured by you with a reputable insurer;
- (c) is not subject to any third party insurance claim;
- (d) is added to and remains on the farm asset register;
- (e) remains in operation in agricultural use on your farm for a minimum period of five years from the date of installation or purchase, unless we have agreed otherwise with you in writing.

3.6.2. If any of the technology, equipment, or infrastructure is stolen or lost you must report it to Thames Water at the first opportunity. You are responsible for replacing any such loss through your insurance.

3.6.3 You must notify Thames Water if, whether due to failure, renewal or replacement due to theft, you replace any technology, equipment, or infrastructure during the Project or during the period of five years from the date of installation or purchase, whichever happens last. If in replacing any technology or equipment under warranty or by other legal right, you are refunded any monies from the seller, then you will immediately inform us of such refund and we will make a reasonable decision as to whether you need to return any portion of the refunded amount to us. Our decision will depend on the amount refunded and the age of the returned equipment.

3.6.4 A failure to comply with this section (3.6) might mean you have to repay some, or all, of the funding.

### 3.7. Funding

3.7.1. You can only use the Funding for completing the Project in accordance with the Terms and Conditions set out in the Agreement. The Funding must not be used for any other purpose without the prior written agreement of Thames Water. You must not make any significant

change to the Project without Thames Water's prior written agreement. You must not apply for any funding for the Project from any third party without Thames Water's prior written consent.

3.7.2. In all cases, the activity is not a service being supplied to Thames Water, but voluntary activity that Thames Water is supporting, and therefore the activity does not attract VAT.

- (a) If you're applying for measures with a specified payment rate, eg £129 per hectare per year for winter cover crops, then this is the exact amount of funding you will receive.
- (b) If you're applying for measures funded at 50% of the total cost, we'll need to make sure we've got the full breakdown and we'll need to know if you're VAT registered. Please attach evidence of the costs (including VAT where appropriate) to support your application. For these measures:
  - iv. If your farm business is not VAT registered, VAT can be included in the total cost you are requesting funding towards, provided the £15,000 limit is not exceeded.
  - v. If your farm business is VAT registered, any VAT should be recovered by you from HMRC, and therefore VAT should not be included in the total costs you are requesting funding towards.

3.7.3. Thames Water will confirm in writing that you've successfully completed your Project as long as:

- (a) We're reasonably satisfied that you've completed the Project in accordance with your Agreement, and complied with the monitoring and reporting requirements,
- (b) You're not eligible to receive payment for any part of the Project or any related administration costs that Thames Water is funding in full under this agreement from another source.

Thames Water will pay your Funding (or the relevant part of your Funding) within sixty (60) calendar days of the end of the month in which we confirm in writing that the project has been completed to our reasonable satisfaction in accordance with this Agreement.

3.7.4. No Funding will be paid unless and until Thames Water is satisfied that such payment will be used for proper expenditure in the delivery of the Project. Thames Water may verify this by arranging to visit the site where the Project has been carried out, and you agree to facilitate such a visit. The amount of the Funding will not be increased in the event of any overspend by you in your delivery of the Project.

3.7.5. Where the Project is to be carried out over more than one year or season then Thames Water will agree with you the payment profile for the Funding. This payment profile may consist of two or more instalments and be subject to the Project reaching agreed milestones.

3.7.6. You shall promptly repay to Thames Water any money incorrectly paid to you either as a result of an administrative error or otherwise. This includes (without limitation) situations where either an incorrect sum of money has been paid or where Funding monies have been paid in error before all conditions attaching to the Funding have been met by you.

3.7.7. You shall not use the Funding to:

- (a) purchase buildings or land; or
- (b) pay for any expenditure commitments entered into before this Agreement; or
- (c) support works that are a legislative requirement or industry obligation; or
- (d) cover maintenance, replacement due to normal wear and tear or existing / partially implemented works

Unless any of the above has been approved in writing by Thames Water.

### 3.8. Accounts and records

3.8.1. You shall keep separate, accurate and up-to-date accounts and records of the receipt and expenditure of the Funding monies you receive.



3.8.2. Thames Water shall have the right to review, at Thames Water's reasonable request, your accounts and records that relate to the expenditure of the Funding and shall have the right to take copies of such accounts and records, including, but not limited to:

- (a) all invoices and payment receipts (which must be addressed to you) for Project works carried out by third parties;
- (b) all consents, planning permissions, licences and authorisations;
- (c) photographic evidence demonstrating the installation of Project in accordance with the Agreement (including before and after photographs taken from the same position) where appropriate; and
- (d) any further documentation as requested by us.

## 4. Our rights and obligations

### 4.1. Liabilities

4.1.1. Our total liability to you will be limited to the funding amount, if any, agreed to be paid subject to these Terms and Conditions.

4.1.2. You warrant that in participating in the Catchment Fund you will not breach any of these terms and conditions and/or warrant you will have all appropriate consents and authorisations in place. You will indemnify us against any loss, damages, costs, expenses or other claims arising from any breach by you of these terms and conditions.

## 5. Withdrawal and termination

### 5.1. Withdrawal of The Catchment Fund

5.1.1. We reserve the right to withdraw The Catchment Fund at any time. If, at the time we withdraw the Catchment Fund, we have an Agreement with you, then we'll notify you in writing of any withdrawal of The Catchment Fund and:

- (a) if you have not yet commenced any actions in connection with your Project, then we may terminate your participation in the Catchment Fund and you will no longer be entitled to the payment of the funding; or
- (b) if you have commenced any part of the Project, then we will agree with you which elements of the Project you are to complete and the extent of the corresponding proportion of the Funding to be paid to you in accordance with these Terms and Conditions.

### 5.2. Termination of your participation in The Catchment Fund

5.2.1. We may, after giving you written notice, postpone, withdraw or terminate your participation in The Catchment Fund, if you:

- (a) Receive any other funding for your Project (or any item within your Project)
- (b) Are no longer a tenant farmer and/or landlord in control of a farm in the Relevant Site and/or no longer a contractor operating in the Relevant Site and/or no longer authorised to carry out the Project at the Relevant Site
- (c) Commit any material or persistent breach of these Terms and Conditions and, in the case of a breach that is capable of remedy, fail to remedy that breach within fourteen (14) days (or such other timeframe we may reasonably require) from the date of written notice to you giving details of the breach and requiring it to be remedied
- (d) Provide false or misleading information or commit any act of fraud (including using the Funding for any other purpose)

- (e) Commit any act or omission, or make any statement, or otherwise behave in any manner which may result in any harm or damage to our reputation or the operation of our business
- (f) Become bankrupt or insolvent
- (g) Be prosecuted for any environmental offence.

5.2.2. Without prejudice to any of our rights or remedies (whether under these Terms and Conditions or otherwise) if you are in breach of any of these Terms and Conditions, you will promptly remedy the breach at your own expense to ensure compliance with these Terms and Conditions unless we have notified you of the termination or withdrawal of your participation in the Catchment Fund.

5.2.3. You may withdraw from participation in the Catchment Fund scheme at any time prior to the payment of the Funding by providing us with written notice of your decision to withdraw.

### 5.3. Consequences of Withdrawal or Termination

5.3.1. If we withdraw the Catchment Fund (or if your participation in the Catchment Fund ends for any reason), you will cease to be entitled to any funding, except as set out in section 5.1.1 above.

5.3.2. Except as expressly set out in these Terms and Conditions, the withdrawal of The Catchment Fund or the termination of your participation in The Catchment Fund will not prejudice or affect any right, power or remedy which has accrued or will accrue to either party prior to or after such withdrawal or termination. The provisions in these Terms and Conditions which expressly or impliedly continue to have effect after termination will continue to be enforceable notwithstanding termination.

## 6. Data Protection

6.1. If you apply to the Catchment Fund, Thames Water will need to use your data to work out where you farm and whether the fields and activities you've chosen are eligible. We'll also use it to create maps of the uptake of the Catchment Fund across our catchment, track progress in delivery, and understand the impact of activity. We'll use it to contact you about your application and any agreement that follows, and will add you to our mailing list for water quality updates and information about catchment management initiatives. The personal data that we will use and may share in accordance with this clause is your name, the address of your farm, your telephone number and email address, and your banking details for the processing of payments.

6.2. We'll need to share your details with our local project partner(s) in your area, to keep track of who's applied and may require support, and to facilitate discussion about your application or



any agreement that follows. They may also contact you about other related projects and opportunities.

6.3. If you farm in an area that is also in the catchment of another water company, we may discuss your application with them, in case there's an opportunity for working together collaboratively, to the benefit of all, or a way of sharing the provision of Funding with them.

6.4. By applying, you're consenting to being involved and to the use of your data. For further information about how we process data, please see our privacy notice.

## 7. General

7.1. **Interpretation:** In these Terms and Conditions:

- References to 'we', 'us' or 'our' means Thames Water Utilities Limited (**company number: 02366661**), and references to 'you' or 'your' means the Participant, including its employees, agents and contractors
- References to a 'person' include any individual, body corporate, association, partnership, firm, trust, organisation, joint venture, authority or any other entity
- Any words following the words 'include', 'includes', 'including' or any similar words or expressions will be construed without limitation and accordingly will not limit the meaning of the words preceding them; and an obligation on a party to procure or ensure the performance or standing of another person will be construed as a primary obligation of the first party

7.2. **Business:**

You confirm that you are acting in the course of your business as a farmer and not as a consumer for the purpose of your application and/or participation in the Catchment Fund.

7.3. **Notices:**

Any formal notice required under these Terms and Conditions may be sent by pre-paid first-class post or recorded delivery or delivered to or left at a party's address. Such notice will be deemed to be served at 9am on the third business day after the date of posting or at the time of delivery to a party's address, as applicable. If we agree that service may be by email, then service will be deemed to have occurred immediately on sending of the email.

7.4. **No Assignment:**

Participation in the Catchment Fund is personal to you, and you will not assign the benefit or delegate the burden or otherwise transfer any right or obligation to any other person without our prior written consent. We will not withhold consent in the event of your serious illness, death or long-term professional incapacity.

7.5. **Force Majeure:**

A party will not be in breach of these Terms and Conditions or otherwise liable to the other party for any failure to perform or delay in performing its obligations if such failure or delay is due to any event or circumstance beyond the reasonable control of the affected party, provided that all reasonable steps are taken to mitigate the effect of such event or circumstance.

7.6. **No Waiver:**

A delay in exercising or failure to exercise a right or remedy under or in connection with these Terms and Conditions will not constitute a waiver of, or prevent or restrict future exercise of, that or any other right or remedy, nor will the single or partial exercise of a right or remedy prevent or restrict the further exercise of that or any other right or remedy. A waiver of any right,

remedy, breach or default will only be valid if it is in writing and signed by the party giving it and only in the circumstances and for the purpose for which it was given and will not constitute a waiver of any other right, remedy, breach or default.

#### 7.7. Illegality:

If any term of these Terms and Conditions is found by any court or body or authority of competent jurisdiction to be illegal, unlawful, void or unenforceable, such term will be deemed to be severed from these Terms and Conditions and this will not affect the remainder of these Terms and Conditions which will continue in full force and effect.

#### 7.8. No Partnership or Agency:

Nothing in these Terms and Conditions and no action taken by the parties in connection with them will create a partnership or joint venture between the parties or give either party authority to act as the agent of or in the name of or on behalf of the other party or to bind the other party or to hold itself out as being entitled to do so.

#### 7.9. No Third Party Rights:

The parties do not intend that any term of these Terms and Conditions will be enforceable under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 by any person.

#### 7.10. Publicity and Announcements

You shall not publish or present any material referring to the Project or Thames Water without the prior written agreement of Thames Water. You shall acknowledge the support of Thames Water in any materials that refer to the Project and in any written or spoken public presentations about the Project. Such acknowledgements (where appropriate or as requested by Thames Water) shall include Thames Water's name and logo (or any future name or logo adopted by Thames Water) using the templates provided by Thames Water from time to time. Thames Water may acknowledge your involvement in the Project as appropriate without prior notice.

#### 7.11. Entire Agreement:

These Terms and Conditions and all documents referred to herein constitute the entire agreement between the parties and supersede any prior agreement or arrangement in respect of their subject matter. You will not be able to rely on or have any remedy in respect of any misrepresentation, representation or statement (whether made by us or any other person and whether made to you or any other person) which is not expressly set out in these Terms and Conditions or any document referred to in these Terms and Conditions. Nothing in this section will be interpreted or construed as limiting or excluding the liability of any person for fraud or fraudulent misrepresentation.

### 8. Dispute Resolution

#### 8.1. Internal Resolution:

In the event of any dispute or difference arising out of or in connection with the Catchment Fund ('Dispute'), our representatives will meet with your representatives to discuss such Dispute in good faith. You agree to make your representatives available at reasonable notice.

#### 8.2. Governing Law and Jurisdiction:

These Terms and Conditions and any noncontractual obligations arising out of or in connection with them will be governed by the laws of England and, subject to section 7.1, the courts of England have exclusive jurisdiction to determine any Dispute arising out of or in connection with these Terms and Conditions (including in relation to any non-contractual obligation).



