



Hampshire Avon  
Demonstration Test Catchment

## Working together to mitigate diffuse pollution

Alongside its scientific work the Hampshire Avon DTC research has undertaken a series of knowledge exchange and transfer activities to promote understanding of its work. This outreach work has been led by the Centre for Rural Policy Research.



The aim is to provide a context for what we term 'social learning' about diffuse pollution and its management, where relevant individuals and institutions interact and exchange knowledge and ideas in a manner designed to engender not only new knowledge but also the mutual trust and respect that is essential for translation of knowledge into practice.

Vital to this approach is the recognition that knowledge comes in many different forms. Scientific knowledge of catchment hydrology, for example, has to be put alongside farm management knowledge of the specific characteristics of fields and farms within sub-catchments or farmers' own experience of the impacts of particular land management or husbandry practices.



**Exploring priorities for DTC science with catchment stakeholders** - Part of our engagement work has been to convene a Catchment Stakeholder Group to explore priorities for DTC science and to act as a practical sounding board for research. This has included interactive group work in which stakeholders visually mapped the key challenges facing diffuse pollution management in the catchment and how the DTC could impact on change positively.

**Putting 'decision support tools' to the test with Farmers and Agronomists** - The team have held workshops to explore farmer and agronomist reactions to FARMSCOPER a decision support tool developed by ADAS to assist in the assessment and mitigation of risks of diffuse pollution from agriculture.



A key concern was linking assessments of mitigation to wider issues of farm profitability. Participants clearly saw the potential of these decision support tools but the information they provide always has to be tied back to the economics of farm enterprise behaviour.

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

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

