

Catchment 54: Upper Cherwell

Water quality grant priorities

How to check if a holding is in the Upper Cherwell catchment target area and see which capital items are funding priorities for the Upper Cherwell.

Check if a holding is in the catchment area

Farmers and land managers are only eligible to apply for a water quality grant if their holding is within a priority targeted catchment area.

Use the online tool

Applicants can use Defra's online tool to see if their holding is in the catchment area by following these steps.

1. Open the [magic map](#) website.
2. Click 'Get started'.
3. Check the box to accept the terms and conditions and click OK.
4. Check the 'Designations' box in the left-hand column.
5. Check the 'Land-based Designations' box below it.
6. Un-check all the boxes except for 'Non-statutory'.
7. Click the + sign next to non-statutory.
8. Un-check all the boxes except for 'Catchment Sensitive Farming Capital Grant Scheme Target Areas (England)'.
9. Click the drop-down arrow in the search field at the top.
10. Select 'Postcodes', enter the holding's postcode and press enter.

The postcode area will be highlighted with a light blue outline. If it has red dots in it, it is in the catchment target area.

Applicants can select the information button, in the feature tools panel at the top, then click on their area to confirm that it's in the catchment target area.

Call customer services

Applicants can also call the customer service team on 0300 060 1111 to check that their holding is in the Upper Cherwell catchment area before submitting an application.

Capital items prioritised in the Upper Cherwell catchment

Applicants are more likely to receive funding if their application addresses at least one of the following local pollution issues:

- Soil damage from livestock and machinery movement
- Clean and dirty water mixing in farm yards

- Sediment, nutrient & pesticide runoff from agriculture

Applications are more likely to be prioritised if these high priority capital items are chosen (item codes in brackets):

- Cross drains (RP5)
- Sediment ponds and traps (RP7)
- Yard works for clean and dirty water separation - underground drainage pipework (RP13), Yard works for clean and dirty water separation - Inspection pit/chamber (RP14), Outdoor concrete yard renewal (RP15) and Rainwater goods (RP16)
- Installation of piped culverts in ditches (RP6)
- Resurfacing of gateways (RP1)
- Storage tanks underground (RP17), Above ground storage tank (RP18) and First-flush rainwater diverters/downpipe filters (RP19)
- Livestock and machinery hard-core tracks (RP4)
- Lined biobed plus pesticide loading and washdown area (RP24), Lined biobed with existing washdown area (RP25), Biofilters (RP26) and Sprayer or applicator loading and washdown areas (RP27)
- Watercourse crossings (RP3)

Post-and-wire fencing (FG1), Sheep netting (FG2), Permanent electric fencing (FG3), Rabbit fencing supplement (FG4) and Fencing supplement- difficult sites (FG5)

How applications will be prioritised

This is a competitive scheme and funding is limited. Not all eligible applicants will be offered a grant.

Applications are more likely to be successful for land managers who:

- include high-priority capital items in their application;
- have had advice from Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) in the last 2 years, for example during a farm visit or at a CSF workshop;
- have not previously had a CSF capital grant;
- are acting to protect a bathing water in a catchment which is at risk of failing to meet EU standards due to farm pollution; and
- are acting to protect a Natura 2000 site in their catchment which is at risk of failing to meet EU standards due to farm pollution.

Applicants can contact their CSF officer for more information and advice:

Laura Francis

Mobile: 07776 375341

Email: laura.francis@naturalengland.org.uk