



SEVERN  
TRENT  
WATER

# Protecting drinking water quality



**Catchment management**  
co-ordinates work carried out  
by water companies, farmers  
and other stakeholders to  
help provide improvements  
in water quality.

A catchment is an area of land that water flows over before it drains into a river or stream. If this water is polluted by pesticides and fertilisers, it will lead to water courses becoming polluted too.

Our catchment management team works in partnership with farmers, land owners and stakeholders across our region to protect drinking water quality. By helping farmers and land owners manage their land in a sustainable way, we believe the quality of water which drains from it can be improved meaning water treatment is less costly and energy intensive. Farmers are offered support, training and at times grants to help ease any problems.

### Investigations

The team carries out investigations in catchments across the region to help improve our understanding of the interactions between land use and water quality. Soil type, rainfall and flow data is analysed in order to try to predict the impact of land use. From this, models are used to understand whether water quality issues are historic and will decrease naturally following reductions in nutrient use. They also identify how effective the measures put in place are and if they are cost effective.

### Partnership working

To help us with our co-ordinated approach to catchment management, we work in partnership with a wide range of organisations including Natural England, the Environment Agency, as well as river and wildlife trusts.

### Monitoring

We actively encourage the development and use of innovative techniques to monitor and improve water quality. The catchment management team is currently investing in the development of new monitoring equipment, funding 'water friendly' pesticide application machinery and trialling alternative crop protection products.

