

ARRT Project Summary

Project Title/Name: Hammer Stream Farmer Participation Project

Date: (Start Date (Month/Year) – Finish (month/year))
 Start Date: August 2012
 End Date: February 2013

Location: Hammer Stream catchment (within the wider Rother Catchment)

Country and County: United Kingdom, England

Project Status: [complete/in-progress/planned](#): Completed

River Name: [tributary/main river/catchment](#): Hammer Stream/Western Rother/Arun, Rother & Western Streams Catchment

Contact Name of Project Officer/Manager and Organisation: Ses Wright, ARRT

Funding Body & Budget: UK Govt': Catchment Restoration Fund (CRF): total Western Rother Fishery Project £109,800.00

Project Themes/Drivers: [Pick all that apply:](#) [In-channel habitat & biodiversity](#) [Flood risk management](#) [Urban rivers](#) [Environmental flows/water resources](#) [Land use management–agriculture](#) [Economic aspects](#) [Fisheries](#) [Hydropower](#) [Water quality](#) [Land use management–forestry](#) [Social benefits](#) [Hydromorphology](#) [Climate resilience](#) [Monitoring](#) [Education & Engagement](#) [Catchment planning and survey work](#)

Project Aims and Objectives: The project builds upon research on rural diffuse pollution which looked into the merits of non-scientist members of the public (*e.g.* landowners, farmers) undertaking self-monitoring as a means of helping to engage and empower local people about the issue of diffuse pollution. The work involved running 2 farmer workshops, encouraging self-monitoring of runoff over 3-4 fields for 12 weeks (November-January) for Nitrates (N) and Suspended Solids (SS) from field drains, with a concluding workshop to explain the results.

Project Outcomes: A key outcome was the need to find out who farms what land, when and where. It was clear that this information is not clear to Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) officers or formal Government data on agricultural land holdings. Local knowledge helped to access a number of farmers operating within the Hammer Stream area that were willing to take part in the project; 22 farmers/ landowners, representing 13 farms/ agricultural holdings, attended the first workshop representing approximately just less than half of the farmland close to the Hammer Stream. Participants were shown how to use the N test strips and SS turbidity tubes and it was explained how the data would be used and anonymised. Free soil analysis was offered by CSF to participating farmers/landowners, with typically a soil sample analysed for each field monitored. A questionnaire was filled in at the second workshop to help understand farmer knowledge of diffuse pollution and how they would like to be supported to better manage the problem. Five farmers agreed to undertake the self-monitoring project (~38% of farms operating in the area), with most of them at the end stating they would be keen to be involved in future monitoring projects. Involving farmers with monitoring empowers them to review local water quality issues in relation to their own data and farm practices and is a useful way of increasing awareness of diffuse pollution. Such an approach provides farmers/landowners with an improved knowledge base, such that if the EA, CSF, or private industry representatives where to contact them they would have their own data to add to any subsequent discussion.

Partners: EA, CSF

Below: Hammer Stream Farmer Workshop at Milland Village Hall, November 2012 (6-9pm)



Below: Map of farmland in Hammer Stream taking part in Self-Monitoring for N and SS Levels

