We have set up Smarter Water Catchments in the Evenlode to encourage water sensitive farming. The Evenlode is a headwater of the River Thames flowing from Moreton-in-Marsh to Nympsfield over a distance of more than 75km. It drains an area of nearly 30,000 ha and is managed as a number of river ‘waterbodies’.

Smarter Water Catchments in the Evenlode has four components (diagram below). One of these is the Catchment Fund. This provides grants for infrastructure and farm management specifically designed to reduce the amount of phosphorus lost from fields and farmyards to watercourses. The types of activities and payments provided are set out in this leaflet. Throughout 2017 and 2018 we will be piloting the roll out of the Catchment Fund within the Longborough Stream, Bladlington Brook and Westcote Brook waterbodies (see map).

In addition to the Catchment Fund, we are offering an advice service, to help you make the best of existing agri-environment schemes. This service includes free farm visits to help design farm activities that reduce phosphorus loss and deliver other benefits on your land. We will also be working with the Evenlode Catchment Partnership and other local organisations to deliver river and wetland restoration schemes across the catchment. Finally, we are looking for farmers to work with us in a trial to explore the effectiveness of No Till and Cover Crops to reduce the loss of phosphorus to watercourses.

From 2018, we will select the most effective parts of the pilot and roll these out to the wider Evenlode catchment.

We will be accepting applications to the Catchment Fund from the 22 September to 3 November 2017. Implementation will start on 1 January 2018.

- Is your farm holding located within one of the three pilot catchments in the Evenlode?
- Would any of the measures listed above suit your farm business?
- Would you like more information? Please contact your Agricultural Advisor.

https://www.thameswater.co.uk/evenlodecatchment