

Phase 1: January 2020 - March 2021

Alt Crossens catchment - a priority catchment for water resources

Background

This project was set up to facilitate a greater understanding of water resources challenges in catchments and support the development and implementation of sustainable management solutions.

The key aims were:

- To engage with stakeholders to develop the Catchment Abstraction Plan that supports delivery of more sustainable and resilient water resources, Catchment Plan outcomes and WFD objectives
- To work with stakeholders to seek novel solutions to irrigation problems and farm water use efficiency in times of drought
- To enhance communications on water efficiency to the agricultural community and other abstractors in the Alt Crossens catchment.



Steering Group Meeting: March 2020



Workshop with farmers in March 2020

Delivery

Delivery of the project included completion of:

- Stakeholder mapping and engagement
- Formation of a project steering group
- Communications strategy
- Stakeholder workshops and webinars, providing information on interventions, sources of funding and case studies
- Information and collaborative working resource materials including the creation of a web-based information hub with resources, advice, sign-posting to funding opportunities and information on water friendly farming



Water storage tanks arriving at a farm



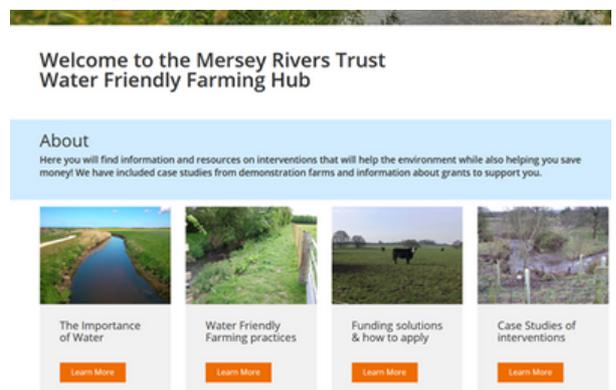
- Encouraging farmers to install water friendly solutions including water storage facilities
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Outcomes

Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has successfully created a 'head of steam', engaging farmers in sustainable water resources and farm water efficiency, as well as wider 'water friendly farming' issues.

There is a new awareness of the water environment amongst the agricultural community in the Alt-Crossens catchment. Providing examples of good practice have helped motivate farmers, both at an individual farm level and examples of farmers co-operating with each other to find solutions at a wider scale.

Having gathered momentum, our Water Friendly Farming programme is now primed to carry forward for a future of sustainable water resource management on farms in the Alt-Crossens catchment subject to additional funding being available.



Web-based Hub