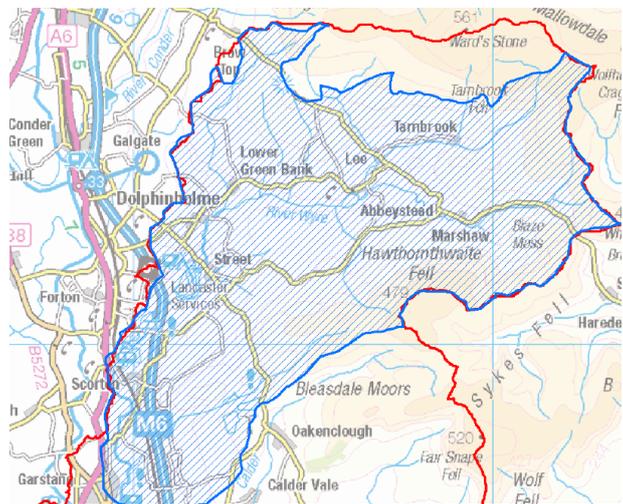


# Pesticide use in the Wyre Catchment

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The hatched blue area is a Drinking Water Safeguard zone.

Water for drinking is abstracted by United Utilities from the River Wyre at Garstang. In recent years high concentrations of pesticides have been recorded in raw water samples, which must be removed before reaching our taps using a costly and inefficient process. Pesticides can also be harmful to aquatic life. The area upstream of the Franklaw Water Treatment works has therefore been designated as a Drinking Water Safeguard Zone and an action plan is in place to prevent pesticide levels increasing.

The Wyre Rivers Trust have been working with United Utilities, Catchment Sensitive Farming and the Environment Agency to monitor pesticides and will be working with landowners to try and reduce the concentrations detected.



## Did you know?

- ⇒ Regular pesticide **monitoring** is undertaken in the Upper Wyre catchment by United Utilities and the Wyre Rivers Trust
- ⇒ MCPA, 2,4-D, MCPA, Tricopyr, 2,4D, Clopyralid, Fluroxypyr, Mecoprop, and Diuron (found in herbicides) and Diazinon (found in sheep dip) have all been found at elevated concentrations in the last five years. **What's in the pesticides you use?**
- ⇒ In a small stream, a **single drop** of pesticide can be detected 30 km downstream
- ⇒ Pesticides can affect fish such as Atlantic salmon, sea trout and brown trout which are a **key species** in the Wyre catchment



Pesticide monitoring point at Street Bridge

## Herbicides

- Ensure all pesticide applications are made by trained and qualified staff and that they are using currently approved products
- Filling should be undertaken on hardstanding or on well structured soil with at least 1.6m depth of soil and sub-soil before bedrock. All handling should take place 10 m away from drains or watercourses and be away from any farm traffic. Consider using a portable bund or biobed for washing and handling areas
- Have absorbent material on hand to clear up any spills immediately. This should be placed in a sealed container and disposed of at a licensed waste disposal site
- Protect all watercourses with 6m buffer strips
- Manage soils to avoid erosion and run-off. Don't apply pesticides to dry, cracked, frozen or waterlogged soils
- Do not apply pesticides if heavy rain is expected within 48 hours of application
- Keep pesticides in a locked bunded store in their original containers
- Regularly calibrate the sprayer and check for leaks or drips
- Consider other options. For example, repeated cutting at 4-8 week intervals can give some control over rushes.

## Sheep dip

- Sheep dip baths should be water tight. All splashes should drain back into the bath, not into drains or soakaway. They shouldn't be sited within 10m of a water course (or 30m in a SSSI)
- If using a mobile bath, site it on impermeable rock or concrete. If this is not possible, choose a site free from water logging with at least a spades depth of un-compacted top soil
- Drainage pens should be large enough to hold dipped sheep for at least 10 minutes. They need impermeable floors and solid sides
- After dipping, sheep should be kept in a holding field for 24 hours. Sheep should not have access to natural watercourses for up to 14 days where possible
- The operator should hold a Dipping Certificate of Competence and Groundwater Authorisation for the safe disposal of sheep dip. Absorbent material should be available for spillages
- Rinse empty dip containers three times with clean water and empty into the bath. Wash down penned area and empty the bath as soon as possible into a vacuum tanker or bowser for disposal at an agreed dilution with slurry or water
- Consider alternatives such as injections for the control of sheep scab

