

Water-use and pollution pathways on the farm



**Westcountry
Rivers Trust**

Yard areas are roofed in to reduce the volume of dirty water by keeping rain water away from cattle standing areas so reducing waste handling costs

Protect soils by contour ploughing and avoid exposing soils to erosion

Water-troughs connected to alternative water supplies where possible. "Pasture Pumps" may be used to draw water from natural sources to reduce water bills and avoid stock access to water courses

Guttering diverts clean water away from dirty water system and fills a rain water tank for stock drinking and yard washing

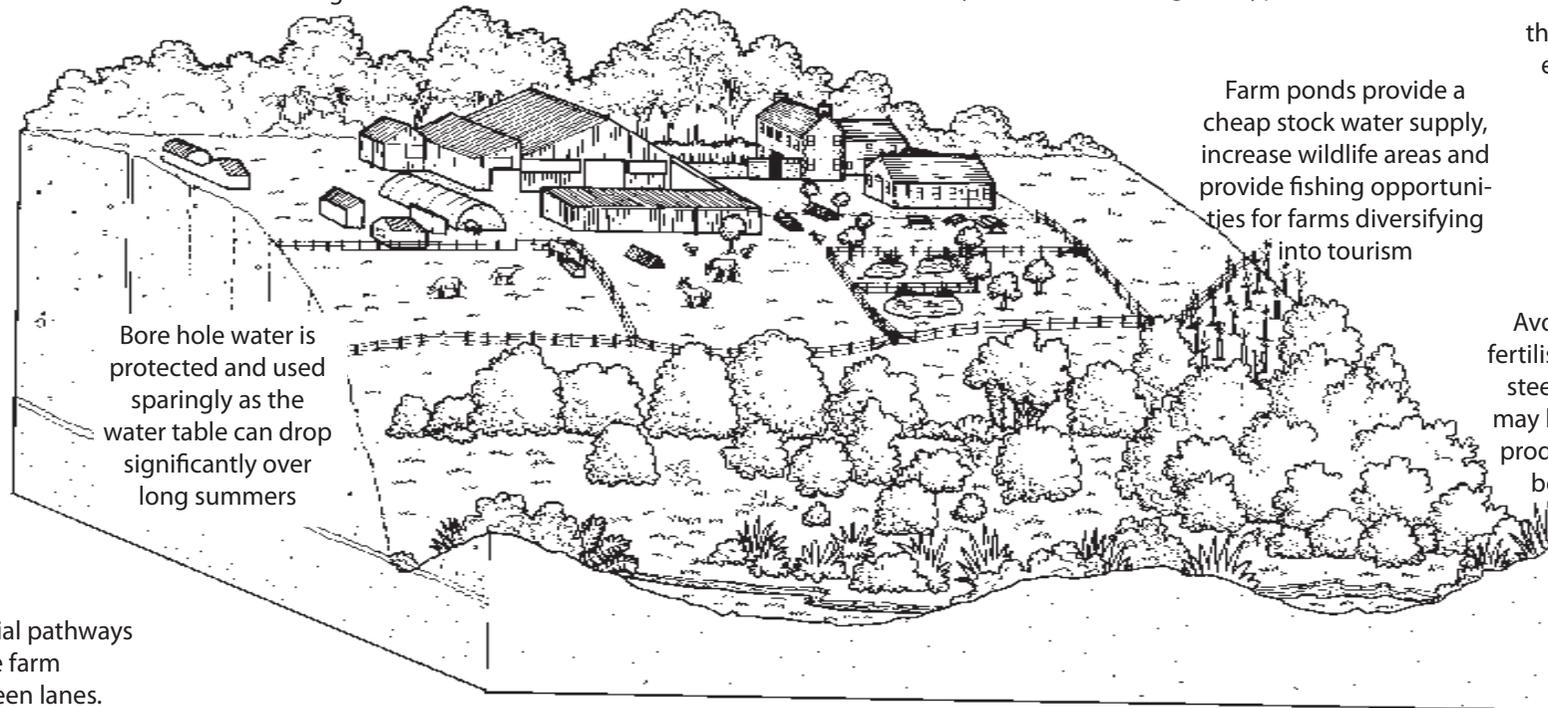
Yard tap linked to the rainwater tank to reduce mains water charges

Conduct regular leak tests on all farm water systems - 20% savings are typical

Burms or wetland treatment areas can be sited to catch yard run-off to reduce the chance of pollutants entering water courses

Allow ditches to revegetate, cleaning out only short sections at a time

Farm ponds provide a cheap stock water supply, increase wildlife areas and provide fishing opportunities for farms diversifying into tourism



Exclude livestock from all water courses

Bore hole water is protected and used sparingly as the water table can drop significantly over long summers

Avoid applying manures, fertilisers and pesticides to steep slopes. These areas may be turned over to tree production if they can not be worked traditionally

Identify the potential pathways for pollution on the farm - ditches, tracks, green lanes. Simple bunds and diversions channeling run-off away from sensitive areas can significantly reduce the chance of a pollution incident

Ditches and streams are protected from potential run-off by buffer-strips of uncultivated land

Soil testing can demonstrate savings on fertiliser application rates - typically 25% savings on nitrogen applications are possible and phosphate applications can often be reduced significantly from previous levels