

Commercial adoption of biobeds in the UK, practical developments and challenges.

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Information update

- 3 biobed trial - Lincolnshire
- Promotion programme - information to farmers
- Biobeds installed
- Challenges
- Future

- 3 biobed trial - Lincolnshire



Main site

Continuous monitoring 2002-2007

Commercial use by 24m Self propelled sprayers

Minor modifications to instrumentation and irrigation area for biobed leachate

Biomix exchanged April 2007





Final Irrigation
area

Newt found in
biobed





Drive over biobed

Continuous use 2002-2007

Monitoring ceased 2004

Commercial use by 24m Self
propelled sprayers

Biobed leachate area now well
grown over

Final Irrigation
area





Soil grass biobed

Continuous use 2002-2007

Monitoring ceased 2004

Commercial use by 24m Self propelled sprayers

Biobed content was soil with turf over. Now exchanged for biobed mix due to Waste regulation exemption



Grass turf now added

Promotion to farmers



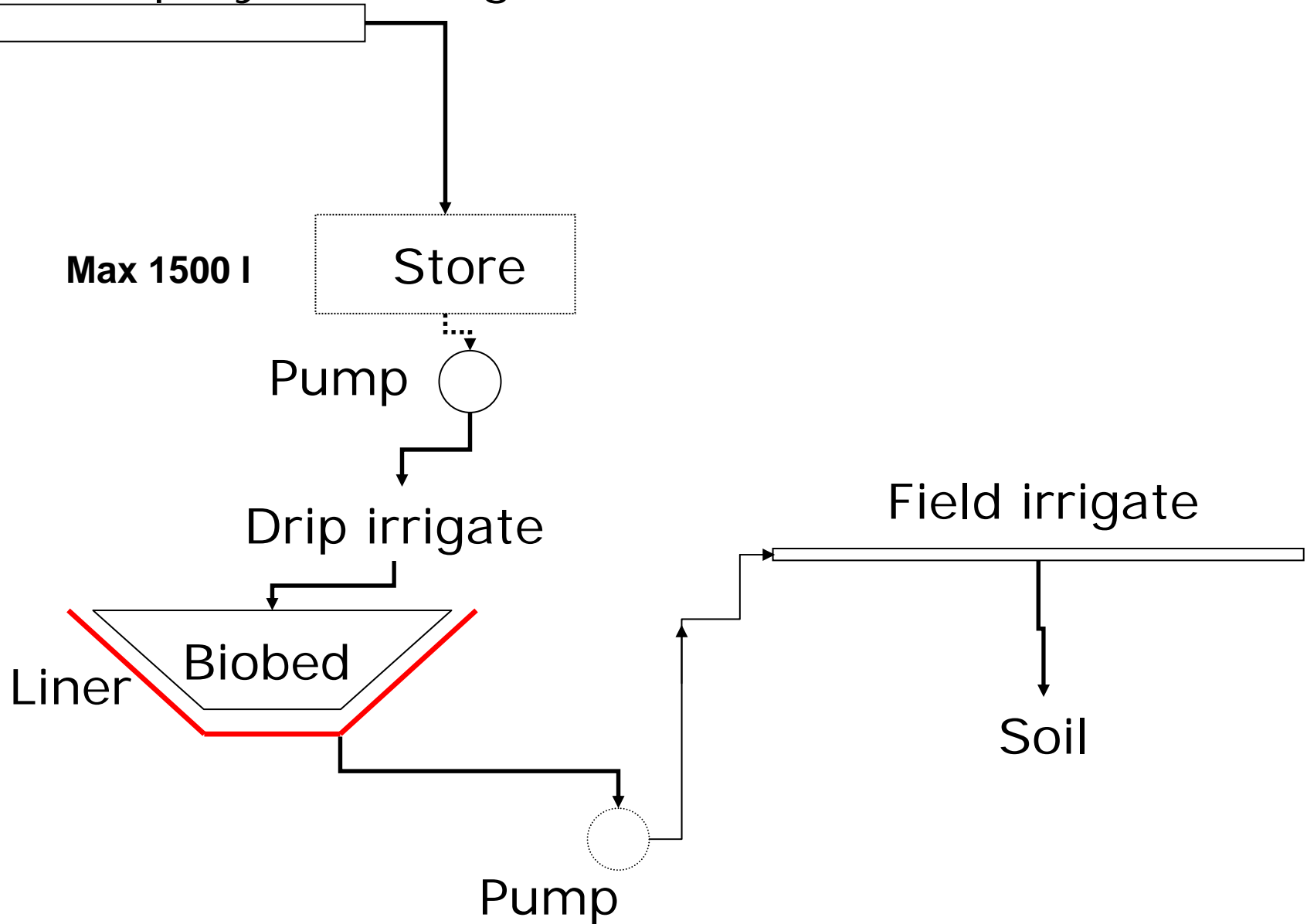
2004-2007

- Farm Shows and events-12 days
 - Farmer talks (Self-32)
 - Biobed site visits - 7
 - Environment Sensitive Farming
 - Catchment Sensitive Farming
 - Voluntary Initiative
-
- Agricultural Waste Regulations - July 2007
 - Grant (now closed) for financing biobeds €4000 max.
 - Now < 20 existing biobeds but increasing rapidly

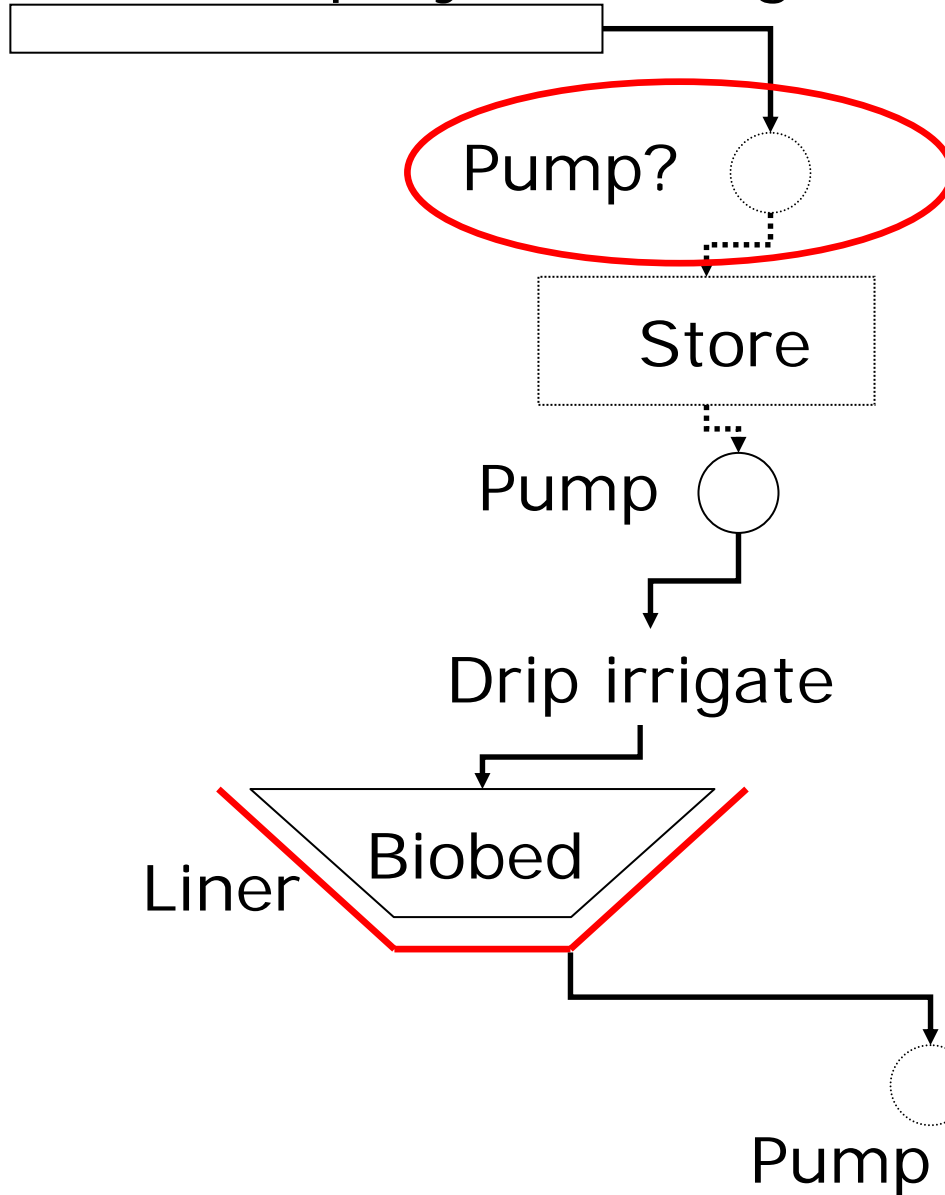


Bunded Sprayer loading

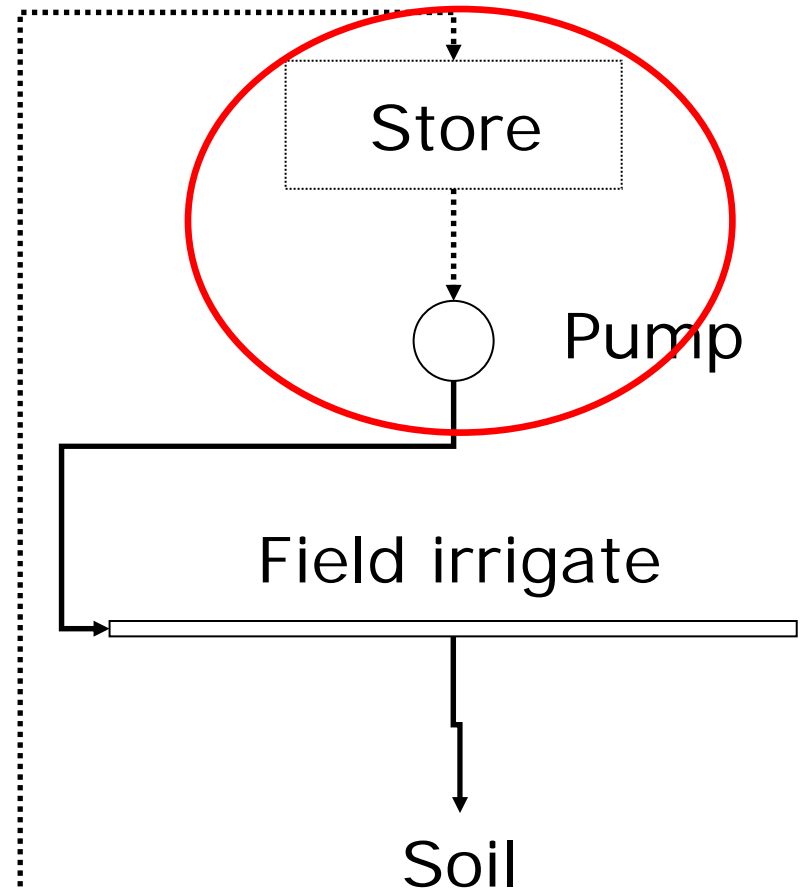
What a farmer needs



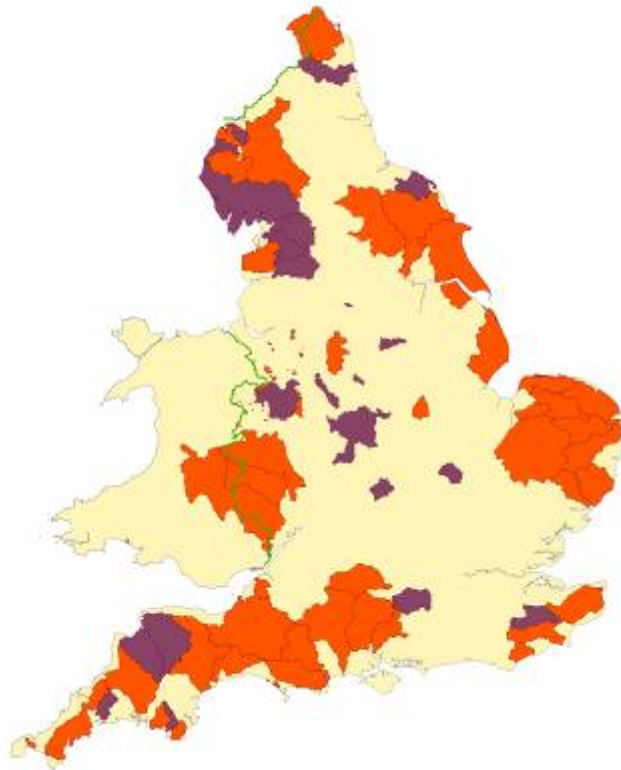
Bunded Sprayer loading



What a farmer needs



Catchment Sensitive Farming



Areas of England and Wales with sensitive water monitoring, pesticides, nitrates etc.

10 biobeds registered for grant payments. Not installed yet



Farm visit, East England
Drain out of sight!



Filling site -Northern England



**Drain to
watercourse**

Farm biobeds installed

<20 in UK

Farmers

- 'waited for regulation clearance'
 - Regulatory officers interpretation
 - Regulation / advisory differences
 - Mistrust

East Sussex Biobed Vegetable farm / spray contractor use

First visit



East Sussex Biobed Vegetable farm / spray contractor use

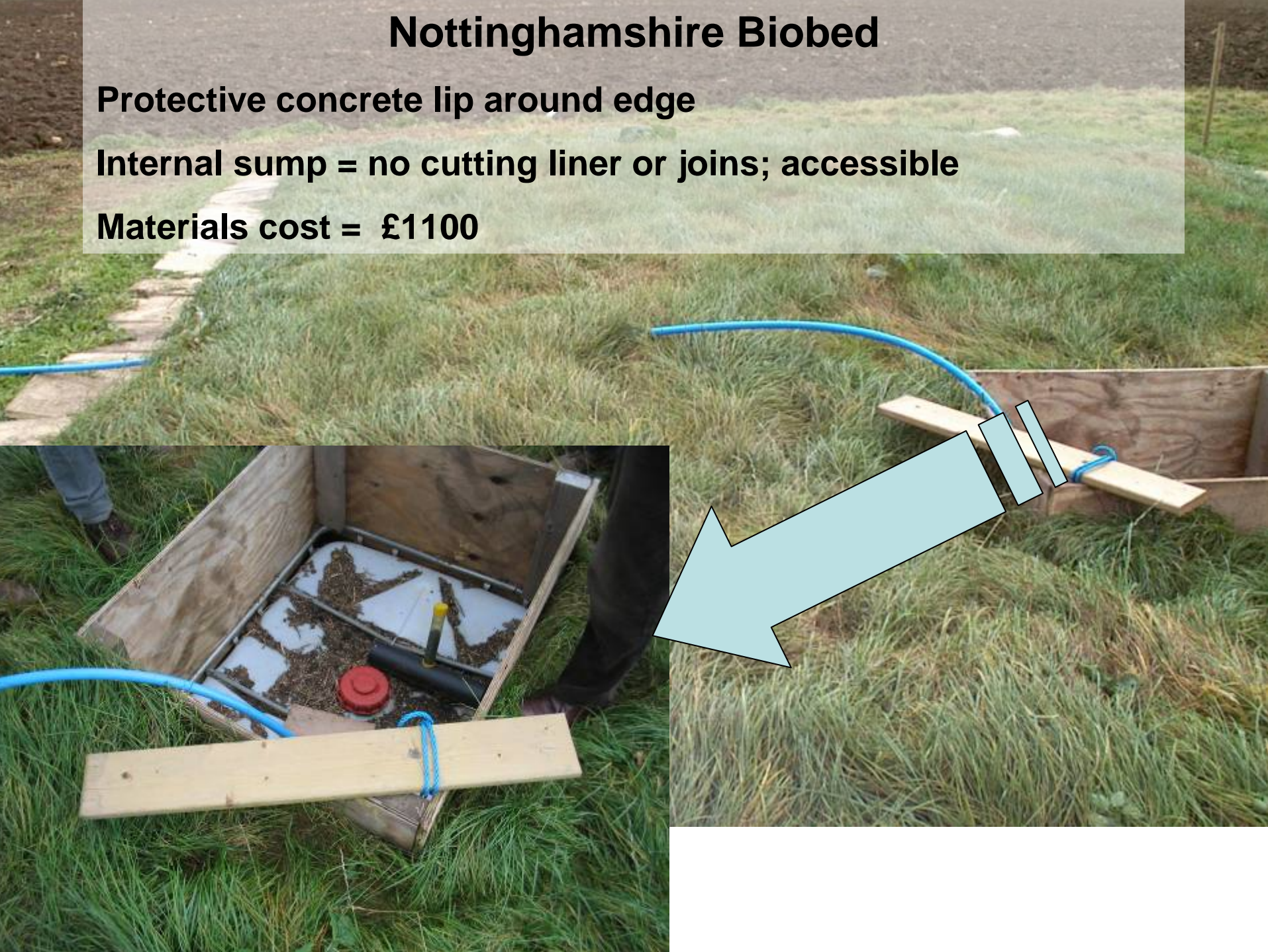


Nottinghamshire Biobed

Protective concrete lip around edge

Internal sump = no cutting liner or joins; accessible

Materials cost = £1100



Challenges

- Biobed principles, Inform and enthuse
 - Environment Agency
 - Catchment Sensitive Staff
- Continue to inform farmers
 - Sprayer filling areas
 - biobeds
- Encourage biobed adoption

Future

- ‘Development-demonstration’
sprayer filling / biobed sites
- Consider other materials in the biobed
- Possible further grants in Catchment sensitive areas
- Maintain web sites
 - www.biobeds.info
 - www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk