

# **Riparian buffer strips as a multifunctional management tool in agricultural landscapes**

April 25-28th 2010, Ballater Scotland



*Can we turn this ...*

*... into this (and what are the benefits?)*



# **Riparian buffer strips as a multifunctional management tool in agricultural landscapes**

## Aims of the workshop

To date working group 4 has examined how the Water Framework Directive has led to a range of mitigation measures being identified, adopted and undergone preliminary assessment as part of EU wide river basin management planning. It seems that a common mitigation measure gaining widespread approval is some form of riparian buffer strip. It is envisaged that these buffers can have immediate and long-term benefits for diffuse pollution control, biodiversity and communities. However, the basis on which these buffers are designed and placed in landscapes requires guidance based on scientific understanding and we need to assess and maximise their effectiveness and lifespan in respect of these multiple linked benefits. This workshop will focus on bringing together scientists and catchment practitioners from across the EU to further our understanding of riparian buffer functioning in different situations so that practical guidance may be developed as to their use, design, management and limitations.

## COST Action 869

The COST Action (Communication in Science and Technology) is an EU funded initiative to bring together scientists, policymakers and stakeholders in science from across the EU. The COST Action 869 is a five year programme aiming to evaluate mitigation options for nutrient reduction in surface water and groundwater. This workshop forms part of the Working Group Four, Evaluation of Demonstration Projects from across the EU and is hosted by the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute (Scotland), in association with Aarhus University (Denmark) and Alterra (the Netherlands).