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Chapter 7. Environmental considerations

Anthelmintics are essential for controlling intestinal parasites in horses as part of a planned and coordinated programme of parasite control. However, anthelmintic resistance (AR) is not the only potential consequence of overuse of anthelmintics. Anthelmintics also have an environmental impact that should be considered. Along with other veterinary medicines and ectoparasiticides, the environmental residues from anthelmintics could be a contributing factor to the decline in insect populations and their diversity in the UK, this could impact on essential ecosystem services and ultimately result in the extinction of some species if used inappropriately (Beynon *et al.*, 2015; Sands and Wall, 2018). It is therefore important to consider the potential environmental impact of anthelmintics within a holistic approach to parasite control in horses.