

## Grassland Diversification

A project which incorporates regenerative farming methods and collaborative working to achieve improved biodiversity and habitats and build business resilience in a nature-friendly sustainable way.



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

To diversify the grasslands on the farm through introducing regenerative farming methods. This will be done through the contribution to the purchase of a Gutler tine seeder which will be used to 'stitch in' herbal ley seed into pastures on the farm, and through the addition of locally harvested seed, sourced through FiPL project FBO30 YDMT Haytime, to the traditional late hay cut meadow on the farm. To plant 70 metres of new hedgerow with associated sheep netting fencing.

### CLIMATE

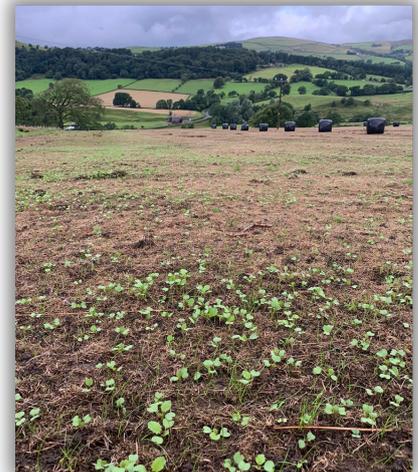
Planting new hedgerows and the diversification of grassland swards through meadow enhancement and herbal ley establishment, will increase soil carbon storage and sequestration through increasing the overall rooting depth. Local flood risk will be reduced as infiltration rates increase, therefore making the landscape more resilient to climate change.

### NATURE

Meadow enhancement, new hedgerow planting and the introduction of herbal leys will lead to an increase in biodiversity, better managed existing habitats, greater areas of improved habitats and greater connectivity between habitats. The herbal leys and meadow enhancement will provide an abundance of food source for pollinators and other wildlife, whilst also improving the soil health and structure. New hedgerow creation will provide better connectivity between habitats for a range of species.

### PLACE

The use of herbal leys will lead to reduced input costs such as fertiliser and fuel, together with the opportunity to carry out contracting work with the Gutler tine seeder. This will promote nature-friendly sustainable farm business resilience and help the future of the farm leading into future environmental schemes such as ELMS\* and SFI\*\*. The quality and character of the landscape is enhanced and improved through boundary restoration and dynamic and abundant grassland pastures.



Progress images of the herbal ley establishment.

### AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

- 1.2 - Habitats and Species
- 1.3 - Historic Environment
- 1.4 - Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services
- 2.1 - Farming and Land Management



### LOCAL ASSESSMENT PANEL REVIEW

- The project scored well on all four criterion; Project outcomes, Value for money, Sustainability / Legacy of project and Ability to deliver.
- The project has encompassed three outcomes of the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme together with including several Forest of Bowland AONB Management Objectives, making this a successful application.
- Grant award total = £11,465.50