



Northwood Farm Wildlife and Farming Project

A project which incorporates traditional boundary restoration, habitat creation, restoration and management, regenerative farming and educational access.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

To top wire 220 metres of newly restored stone wall, to gap up 110 metres of hedgerow with associated fencing, to fence off 161 metres of streamside from livestock grazing and to install 4 kissing gates. To restore 1.3 hectares of species rich pasture within Fir Trees Brook Pasture British Heritage Site (BHS), to manage 4.3 hectares of very low input grassland and to establish 14 hectares of herbal leys. To support 29 educational access visits to the farm.

CLIMATE

Carbon storage will be increased through gapping-up hedgerows, planting herbal leys and carrying out grassland restoration. By introducing a dynamic root depth system, this will increase the potential for soil carbon storage and sequestration, together with other benefits such as reduced flood risk through increased infiltration rates, better soil health and structure and improved biodiversity. This will all lead to helping the landscape become more resilient to climate change.

PLACE

Boundary restoration through top wiring a recently restored stone wall and hedgerow gapping-up will protect the traditional boundaries from livestock damage. This will preserve and enhance the character and historical features of the local landscape, which can be enjoyed by all who walk along the public footpaths.

NATURE

Restoration of the BHS pasture, management of the low input grassland, establishment of the herbal leys and gapping-up hedgerows will all ensure there is a greater area of habitat for wildlife, increased biodiversity and creation and improvement to wildlife corridors, thus improving connectivity. Furthermore providing food sources and nesting habitats for a variety of species including invertebrates, insects, birds, small mammals etc.

PEOPLE

Access furniture will be improved through replacing awkward styles with accessible kissing gates, this will provide more opportunities for people to visit and access the local countryside. The supported educational access farm visits will provide the opportunity for more diverse groups of people to get onto the farm to learn about the industry. Groups will include people from neuro-diverse groups, young adults and people with dementia.

AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

- 1.2 - Habitats and Species
- 1.3 - Historic Environment
- 2.1 - Farming and Land Management
- 3.3 - Discovering and learning
- 3.4 - Health and Well-being



Location of streamside fencing to protect the watercourse from pollutants.

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 all four 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 = £20,247.64