

Upper Aire Habitat and Land Management Improvement Project

Crake Moor Farm, Skipton

Crake Moor Farm is a 160 hectare sheep and suckler beef holding at the top of Otterburn Beck catchment. Black grouse are present on farm. The Project contact was as result of a referral from a neighbour.



Timeline

- Aug 2014** Whole Farm Appraisal prepared which identified opportunities for:
- Fencing existing riparian woodland
 - Fencing with new woodland creation in unfenced gill
 - Hedge planting
 - Leaky dams to slow flood runoff (culvert under farm overtops in high flow).
 - Improved soil/ grassland management.
- Sept 2014** Soil sampling/ analysis carried out to inform optimum liming and fertiliser inputs.
- Oct 2014** Specification drawn up for installation of leaky dams in small sub-catchment above farm drawing on knowledge from visit to Belford Project in Northumberland.
- Winter 2014/15**
- Existing riparian woodland and gill made stockproof with 1192m of new fence at cost of £8352, with £2000 contribution from farmer and balance funded by Aire Project. Work done by local fencing contractor.
 - Native trees provided by Woodland Trust planted in open areas in fenced woodland by Forest of Bradford volunteers.
 - Leaky dams installed by Forest of Bradford Volunteers, refining design based on experience. Farmer very happy with the result and feels this is helping to reduce flooding issues on the farm.
- Jan 2016** Soil Husbandry advisory visit/ report funded by Yorkshire Dales National Park as part of their Catchment Sensitive Farming work, including soil sampling and analysis.
- Winter 2015/16** 250m of hedge planting, with new fencing, part-funded by the Upper Aire Project and with support in kind from the Woodland Trust.



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Winter 2016/17	1.92ha new gill woodland creation with 2458 trees as part of Forestry Commission Woodlands for Water initiative, and with support in kind from the Woodland Trust, plus preparation of Woodland Management Plan for existing woodland.
Winter 2018/19	200 trees planted in small fenced beckside area by Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust Volunteers
Spring 2018	14.45ha of grassland aeration and 5.7ha of liming funded by the Upper Aire Project.
May 2019	Grassland aeration event held on the farm (well attended by local farmers) with a demonstration of another 5.5ha of aeration
Spring 2019 & Summer 2020	Pre and post-monitoring of aeration plots using infiltration rates, earthworm counts and soil pits to assess compaction.
Summer 2019	Woodland management of 0.25ha
Summer 2020	55 leaky log dams installed – WYCA funded
Winter 20/21	Planting of 100 broadleaf trees and 70m hedgerow – WYCA funded



Final total delivered:

- 2758 Trees planted
- 1192m riparian fencing installed
- 320m new hedgerow planted
- 1.92ha woodland created
- 0.5ha woodland management undertaken
- 19.95ha grassland aeration
- 5.7ha liming
- 55 leaky dams constructed



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