

Upper Aire Habitat and Land Management Improvement Project

Holme House Farm, Skipton

Holme House Farm is a 135 hectare sheep and suckler grassland farm on the eastern side of Gargrave, with land alongside Eshton Beck, the Leeds Liverpool Canal and the main River Aire, and with a separate block of land on Eller Beck north of Skipton. A weir, associated with the Leeds-Liverpool canal, is located on Eshton Beck. Otters are present on the farm.



Timeline

- Winter 2013/14** Initial contact made following EA referral and Whole Farm Appraisal carried out which identified opportunities for:
- Riparian fencing
 - Tree management
 - Bank protection associated with a landslip
- Summer 2014** Forestry Commission Felling licence applied for and approved for riparian coppicing.
- Autumn 2014** Tree management along Eshton Beck by local forestry contractor followed by **275m of riparian fencing** plus replacing straining posts in additional riparian fencing. Project contribution £3210, farmer contribution £1650 +VAT.
- Winter 2014/15** Bank protection/ restoration carried out by volunteers with **willow spiling**/ bundling, whole tree bank protection and planting willow setts to stabilise landslip.
- Summer 2015** Advisory visit to land on Eller Beck identified riparian fencing and planting opportunities to compensate for Skipton Flood Alleviation Scheme.
- Autumn 2015** **Baffles fitted to weir** to improve fish passage up Eshton Beck.
- Winter 2015/16** Works carried out on Eller Beck including riparian fencing, planting and hedge restoration, funded through Skipton Flood Alleviation Scheme.
- Autumn 2017** Fencing and installation of a **solar power pump and drinking trough** so that farm livestock do not need to access the beck.
- Winter 2017/18** Planting of **400 trees** alongside Eshton Beck at the confluence with the River Aire, in partnership with the neighbouring landowner Systagenix (whose staff also helped to plant the trees).



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