

FOREST OF BOWLAND FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES CASE STUDY FB027 - Cockshotts Farm, Sabden

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Replacement Barn Doors and Calf House Restoration, Wall Top Wiring & Dry Stone Wall Restoration, Fence line Restoration, Hedge Planting and Wildflower Meadow Restoration



PROJECT OVERVIEW

To replace 2 traditional barn doors to continue the use of an agricultural barn, to fund a restoration feasibility study on a historic Calf House, to restore 20 metres of dry stone wall and top wire 685 metres to protect the wall from livestock damage, to create 620 metres of new hedgerows with 1,200 metres of associated sheep netting around the farm to create new wildlife corridors and encourage bio-diversity. To carry out 3.69 hectares of meadow restoration work using the hay baler funded through a previous FiPL application. To protect and enhance the landscape, to enhance the species diversity of the hay meadows, to increase habitat connectivity, carbon storage and local flood management and continue to farm in a traditional, nature friendly way.

CLIMATE

Hedgerow planting and meadow restoration will lead to increased carbon storage and sequestration, reduced local flood risk through intercepting surface run off and increased infiltration rates, as well as making the landscape more resilient to climate change.

PLACE

The feasibility study on the historic Calf House and barn door replacement work will both help to enhance the quality of the landscape and historic structures within it, as well as ensuring the building can continue to be used for an agricultural purpose and therefore contribute to the farm business resilience in a traditional nature friendly way.

NATURE

The meadow restoration work and new hedge planting will increase biodiversity through improved habitat creation and connectivity between habitats. Creating a variety of food sources and nesting grounds for various species such as bats and birds.

PEOPLE

Using the connections with the Ribble Rivers Trust and Pendle Hill, volunteers can help and get involved with planting the new hedgerows. This will provide opportunities for people to engage more in land management activities. This will also provide opportunities for more diverse groups of people to explore, enjoy and understand the landscape through the volunteer connections.

AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

- 1.2 Habitats and Species
- 1.3 Historic Environment
- 2.1 Farming and Land Management
- 2.4 Community Engagement and Volunteering
- 3.3 Discovering and Learning
- 3.4 Health and Well-being



Completed 20 metres of dry stone wall restoration

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.
- Items have either been funded at Countryside Stewardship rates or 100% actual cost, apart from the replacement barn doors which were funded at 40%.
- Grant award total = £30,719.86