



LAND MATTERS

MARCH 2021

This is the 1st edition of a focused newsletter for those managing land within the Arnside & Silverdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The aim is to provide up to date information which may be of interest to you. Here we'll focus on funding opportunities open to you now on agricultural land, projects in the AONB, and where you can go for advice and support.

ARNSIDE & SILVERDALE FARMING AND LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP

As we all know, farming is changing. To help weather, understand and adapt to these changes, the Arnside & Silverdale AONB Partnership is establishing a Farming and Land Management Group. We see the group being 'farmer-led'. Anyone who owns or manages land in the AONB is welcome to join. We will learn from each other, bringing in external specialist help where appropriate.

THE AIMS OF THIS GROUP ARE TO:

- enable farmers, land managers, landowners and organisations to work together across the area and access the new environmental payments that are slowly replacing the Basic Payment Scheme;
- provide a focus for sharing information, opportunities, knowledge and views;
- make new contacts and share ideas with neighbouring land managers, discovering how best to cooperate and work together;
- encourage and support landscape enhancement and nature recovery; and
- improve agricultural practices to benefit the natural environment and resources such as soil health.

The future is uncertain. We expect the group to be an important source of support for farmers and land managers during this transition, both in terms of knowledge and importantly for social aspects and sense of community.

We want to listen to you, and learn the best ways to provide support, advice, and facilitation. We can talk about options for sharing knowledge and devise ways of working with your neighbours to achieve bigger results to benefit the environment, as this is likely to be an important part of the new Environmental Land Management schemes. There will also be opportunities to get involved with partnership projects, both large and small.

We are seeking views on how to make the group as useful and successful as possible. Membership is free and you will have the opportunity to take part in a range of events and activities. Some of you will have responded to our survey already – *thank you*. If not, we really do welcome your views so please fill in and return the tear off slip at the end of this newsletter using the S.A.E. provided.

To begin with, we are launching the group with this newsletter and through a series of online events that you will have the opportunity to be part of – **see inside for more details.**

GET IN TOUCH

The Arnside & Silverdale Farming and Land Management Group is being facilitated by AONB Countryside Officer and farmer, Helen Rawlinson, and run collaboratively. To join, or for more information regarding training and events being offered and planned, please complete and return the tear off slip at the end of this newsletter or contact Helen direct at **helen@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk**
07770543271

AGRICULTURAL TRANSITION 2021 - 2027

In January, the Agricultural Transition period began. As I am sure you are aware from this year, if you are claiming Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) your payments will start to be reduced. These payments will continue to be gradually phased out, and all of the money saved from the reduction of BPS payments will be transferred to the pot for 'environmental and animal welfare outcomes.'

The Agricultural Transition Plan sets out what schemes will be active at what times over the 7-year period.

- New Countryside Stewardship agreements and capital works
- Continuation of Environmental Land Management test and trials
- Environmental Land Management National Pilots
- Tree Health Pilot
- Roll out of components of Environmental Land Management
- Farming in Protected Landscapes
- Animal health and welfare pathway

We know that from 2024 the Environment Land Management scheme (ELM) will start, and will focus on 'payments for public goods'.

It's worth looking at what these public goods are:

- Clean air
- Clean and plentiful water
- Thriving plants and wildlife
- Protection of environmental hazards
- Beauty, heritage and engagement with the environment
- Reduction and adaptation to climate change.



FARMING IN PROTECTED LANDSCAPES SCHEME

From April 2021-2024, the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme will provide financial support to farmers and other land managers in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The funding will help them support and manage the natural environment, cultural heritage and public access.

The National Association of AONBs and National Parks England are running a webinar to share more information on this scheme. 23rd March 1- 2.30pm. Register now at www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/workshops

Funding will focus on the following two areas:

1. Farm-level projects to diversify incomes and prepare for Environmental Land Management.
2. Wider infrastructure and projects on farmland, to support farmers and rural economies.

Funding will be administered by the National Park Authorities or AONB Partnerships. At Arnside & Silverdale AONB we are looking forward to working with you to make the most of this opportunity. At the time of going to press we are still awaiting further information on the scheme so details will be included in our next newsletter. For the latest updates sign up to be a member of our Farming and Land Management Group using the form at the back of this newsletter.



MID TIER COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP 5 Year Scheme

DEFRA have stated that being in a Countryside Stewardship scheme is the best preparation for ELM and will provide your farm business with an alternative funding stream as BPS declines.

Any Mid or Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship agreement (from 2021) can withdraw and apply for ELM at agreed exit points without penalty.

Standard Mid-Tier - a competitive scheme, can include capital works

Wildlife Offer - a non-competitive scheme

Support wildlife by creating:

- sources of nectar and pollen for insect pollinators
- winter food for seed-eating birds
- improved habitats, especially for farmland birds and pollinators.

In Arnside & Silverdale AONB the most relevant Wildlife Offer will be the 'Lowland Grazing' offer. A minimum of 3% of the farm needs to be included in the agreement. You can now include educational access in mid tier applications.

ADAS are offering FREE webinars and clinics to assist with your Mid Tier applications. Webinars are 12 - 1.30pm 18th March, 31st March, 20th April, 20th May, 15th June. To book a place, or for more information on the clinics phone Sue Baker on 08453 713399.

Key Dates

- Request application pack by **28th May 2021**
- If you want to use certain options, you'll need endorsement from CSFO or Natural England by **28th May 2021**
- Submit by **30th July**
- Start date **1st January 2022**



CAPITAL GRANTS SCHEME

2 year scheme - start date 1st Jan 2022.

Application window 9th Feb - 30th April 2021.

Separate grant scheme with three themes: - Water Quality - Air Quality - Hedgerow & Boundaries

- Each theme has a £20,000 grant limit
- One application could include options from all 3 themes if eligible
- Earlier deadline for CS Capital Grant Scheme – 30th April 2020

Apply online

Information on all of the options available at www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants

The Capital grant offer is now available to Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreement holders, if the options are compatible, and you aren't being paid for that option through your HLS scheme.

Boundaries, Trees and Orchards Grant

The Hedgerows and Boundaries Grant under another name, with more options.

Options that would work well in Arnside & Silverdale:

- Laying hedge - £9.40/m
- Gapping up - £9.50/m
- Planting new hedges - £11.60/m
- Planting hedgerow tree - £8.80/tree
- Stone wall restoration - £25/m
- Orchard tree surgery - £96.50-£200/tree



OPTIONS FOR ADDRESSING WATER AND AIR POLLUTION RISK -

Water Quality Options. £20,000 limit

A number of these require Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) approval.

Available in areas that are High Priority for Water Quality – all of Arnside & Silverdale AONB.

Options must address local pollutant pressures

Popular options:

- RP15 Concrete yard renewal £27.14/m²
- RP28 Roofing (sprayer washdown area, manure storage area, livestock gathering area, slurry stores, silage stores) £62/m²

Air Quality Options – NEW for 2021. £20,000 limit

- All require CSFO approval

Options:

- AQ1 Automatic Slurry Scraper - - £2760 per passageway
- AQ2 Low ammonia emission flooring for livestock buildings - - £72 per m²
- TE4 Supply & Plant a tree - - £1.28 per tree + TE5 Supplement for use of individual tree-shelters - £1.60 per unit



CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

A confidential, non-regulatory project working with farmers to minimise pollution risk and improve water & air quality.

Free, no-obligation, bespoke farm advice reports on:

- Farm Infrastructure
- Slurry and Manure Storage & Handling
- Soil Health & Husbandry
- Conserving Nitrogen to reduce Ammonia Emissions

Grant funding to implement improvements to farm infrastructure that reduce pollution risk:

- Cover slurry stores and middens to exclude rainwater and increase capacity
- Yard works to reduce and contain dirty runoff
- Guttering to separate clean water from dirty yards

Free soil & slurry / manure sampling + Nutrient Management Report.



**A clear solution
for farmers**

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Your local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers are:

Emma Abrams - Kent Leven
emma.abrams@naturalengland.org.uk
07778829753

Will Huck – Lune
Will.huck@naturalengland.org.uk
07385383052



BOOM – LOOKING FOR SUITABLE PLANTING SITES FOR ASPEN

The Back on Our Map project is a community focussed species restoration project based in south Cumbria, facilitated by the University of Cumbria, working with Morecambe Bay Partnership. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, it aims to dedicate the next four years to restoring and reintroducing regionally threatened species into their native habitats.

Between January and end of March 2021, we are looking for a few suitable sites to plant aspen of north west provenance into South Cumbria. Aspen is a pioneer tree species that flourishes in open sunlight, in moist but well drained soil. Ideally, we would like to plant in ex-agricultural land, fenced off land protected from grazing animals, or along river banks but will consider other suitable locations. We are happy to help plant the trees and will be looking for accessible sites where we can monitor tree health, ongoing establishment and take future root cuttings.

If you would like to be a part of this project or know of suitable land that might have potential for re-planting please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Please email: boom@cumbria.ac.uk. Or find us on Twitter and Facebook: [@BoomCumbria](https://www.facebook.com/BackOnOurMap) and www.facebook.com/BackOnOurMap

If you know of any mature aspen trees in your area please let us know, we would like to survey them to see if they are suitable to collect some roots from in future years.

University of
Cumbria



MORECAMBE BAY
PARTNERSHIP



WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW LIVESTOCK AND TREES CAN WORK TOGETHER ON FARMS?

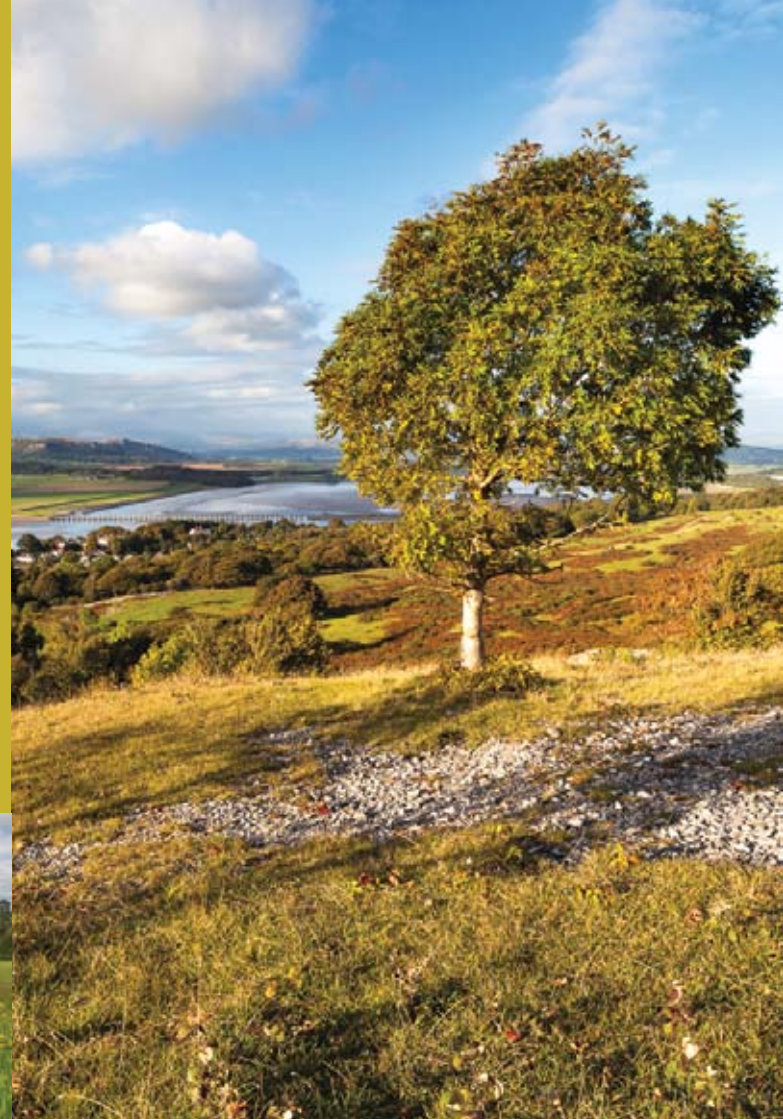
We know of a number of farmers interested in looking how livestock and trees can be combined on farms to improve their viability and potentially secure future ELM payments.

Trees on Farms will be an increasing feature of Countryside Stewardship, to help address the Climate crisis and loss of nature and alleviate flooding.

Trees on Farms can improve soil quality, improve shelter and even add an income through selling carbon or wood fuel. We would like to put on a series of information and discussion events, and need your help. What would you like to know?

In the AONB this could involve looking at the role of hedges and hedgerow trees, in-field trees, scrub and orchards. Farm visits, financial costs, potential benefits and funding help can all be explored – *it's led by you!*

Interested? Please phone or email Helen Rawlinson
helen@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk 07770543271





If you would like to join THE ARNSIDE & SILVERDALE FARMING AND LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP please complete and return this slip using the S.A.E. provided.

We would like to be able to send you information and updates on the farming and land management group and also other projects, events and opportunities relevant to Arnside & Silverdale AONB but we need your permission to do so.

Please indicate your permission below. You can change your mind at any time by clicking the unsubscribe link in an email or by contacting us at info@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk. We will treat your information with respect and never pass it on to anyone else.

For more information about our privacy practices please visit our website:

<http://www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk/keeping-in-touch/>.

- Do you agree to receive information relevant to the Arnside & Silverdale AONB farming and land management group? Yes ☐ No ☐
- Do you agree to receive other information relevant to the Arnside & Silverdale AONB? Yes ☐ No ☐
- How would you prefer to receive information? Phone ☐ Email ☐ Post ☐

CONTACT DETAILS

Name:

Name of business:

Address:

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Email:

Phone number:





Arnside & Silverdale AONB
Old Station Building, Arnside, Carnforth LA5 0HG
T: 01524 761034 E: info@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk
www.arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk

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