

Water Friendly Farming in Darley and Ash Brooks



Mersey
Rivers Trust



The
Rivers
Trust



defra
Department for Environment
Food and Rural Affairs



**United
Utilities**

Water for the North West

Who are we?



Alt Crossens and
Cheshire areas have
farm focusses

- The Mersey Rivers Trust is a charity working in partnership with all those interested in improving our local rivers and waterways. It is the Rivers Trust for the River Mersey and its catchment.
- Our work covers the whole of the Mersey Basin
- We have three operational catchments, with different teams in each area,
 - Cheshire
 - Liverpool City
 - Greater Manchester

Water Friendly Farming

- Project run by Mersey Rivers Trust and funded by DEFRA and United Utilities. In fourth year of project.
- Aim to help protect and improve water quality in the Upper Weaver catchments of Darley and Ash Brooks
- Provides free advice and a farm plan, and a potential small grant to implement measures identified in the plan



Catchment Maps



Why Darley Brook?

Moderate ecological status

- Failing due to Fish and Phosphates

11 Reasons for Not Achieving Good Status

- Two due to water industry
- Three under investigation
- Five due to agricultural practices
- One due to INNS (Signal Crayfish)

Why Ash Brook?

Moderate ecological status

- Failing due to Phosphates

16 Reasons for Not Achieving Good Status

- One due to water industry
- 12 due to agricultural practices
- Three under investigation

A photograph of a wooden staircase leading up a hill, with a quote overlaid on the image. The quote is: "The secret of making progress is to get started." The quote is split across two lines. The author's name, "Mark Twain", is written in a red box below the quote. The background is a blue sky with a white cloud. The staircase is made of dark wood and has a railing. The path leads up a hill, and the sky is a clear blue. The quote is in white text on a dark background.

The secret of making
progress is to get started.

Mark Twain

 quotesonqu.com

INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES INFORMATION FOR LANDOWNERS



A **non-native species** is a species that has been introduced into the country by human intervention.

Most non-native species do not cause problems. However, a minority (10-15%) become “invasive” and have negative impacts on agriculture, forestry or biodiversity interests.

The cost of invasive non-native species (INNS) to Britain is at least 1.7 billion/year. Agriculture is the most affected industry, with estimated costs for the UK at £1.088 billion.

Managing invasive species is the responsibility of the owner/occupier of the site. By law, you must ensure that any non-native plants growing on your land don't spread into the wild.



INVASIVE NON-NATIVE SPECIES INFORMATION FOR LANDOWNERS



Control: Invasive species can be controlled through a range of methods, including containing a species in a limited area, preventing or slowing its spread, and localised population reduction or eradication.

Support available

Countryside stewardship:

- SP4: Control of invasive plant species supplement. Available for Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier. Pays £380 per hectare.
- SB6: Rhododendron control. Available for Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier and Higher Tier Capital Grants. Payments from £3,500 - £5,500 per hectare.



The Government and GB non-native species secretariat websites can also provide more information on invasive plants, their management, and landowners responsibilities.

Engagement....



Free Farm Business Advice
For Farms in the Darley Brook Catchment

Get free confidential 1:1 advice with a farm advisor

Guidance on nutrients and water management

Opportunity to improve your farm business and help the environment

Contact - Sally Potts
info@merseyrivers.org
07920095753

www.merseyrivers.org



FREE PIE AND A PINT

Come along to this information evening and find out more about free, confidential farming advice available in your area, and future funding opportunities.

Free farm business advice now, and potential funding for farm infrastructure in 2024

Wednesday 22nd February
7:30pm—9:00pm
Alvanley Arms Pub, Colebrook, Tarporley
CW6 9DS

Please contact Sally Potts, Farm Advisor
07920095753
sally@merseyrivers.org

Let us know you're coming so we have enough pies!



Capital Interventions....



Capital Interventions....



353m of guttering and downpipes installed



1713m of fencing installed along watercourses



30 interventions implemented on 8 farms



Over £45k of funding awarded to farms



471 m2 of concrete installed in yards and gateways



4 cattle crossings and livestock drinkers

How it works....

Capital Interventions....



How it works....

Water Management Plans....



How it works....

Farm visit....

Ways to reduce phosphate in the water such as:

- Separation of clean and dirty water
- Rainwater harvesting
- Fencing
- Water troughs
- Concrete
- Livestock tracks
- Sward lifting
- Buffer strips
- Undersowing



What's in it for me?

- **FREE** farm business advice – it only costs your time
- Water Management Plan captures items that could be submitted into other schemes, support supplier schemes (e.g Tesco, Müller)
- Potential to be considered for future funding – but you need a water management plan



Better Rivers Better Northwest

- United Utilities have committed to deliver **£230 million in environmental improvements from 1st Jan 2023 – 30th Nov 2025**
- Working with Rivers Trusts to hold events and create cluster groups where we can chat to farms about water friendly farming and other topics

Would you like to set up a farming group for Darley and Ash Brooks?



Thank You

Email: sally@merseyrivers.org

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 Mersey Rivers Trust

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