Water Friendly Farming in Darley and Ash Brooks









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

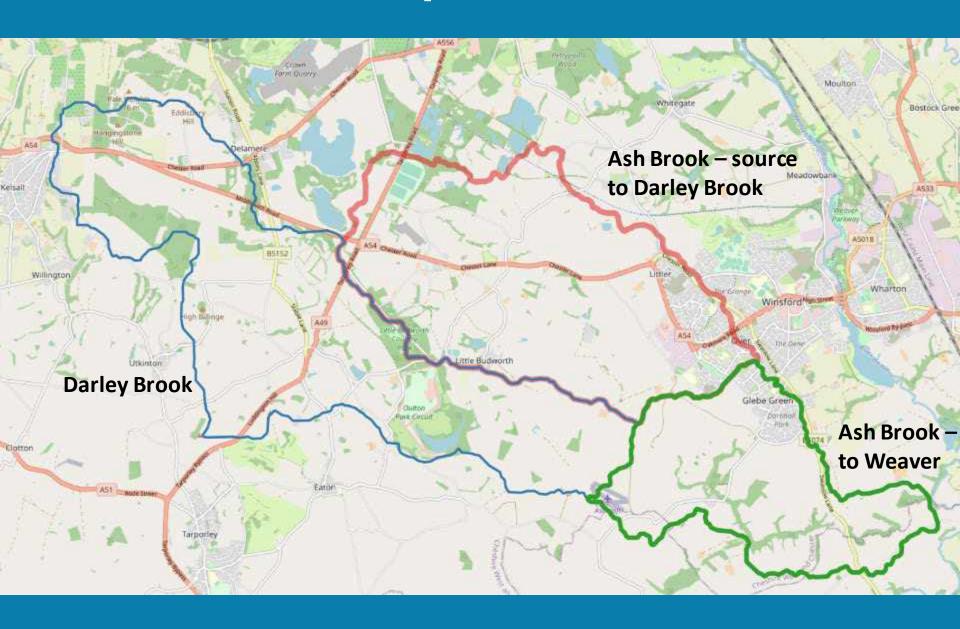
Water Friendly Farming

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



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....







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

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