

# Nature Based Solutions

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**Mersey**  
Rivers Trust



# Welcome!

- Introductions
- Housekeeping
- Agenda



# 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

- Across six years and 17 projects MRT has worked to support farmers with improving the water quality on their land
- Main areas of work focus have been the Alt and Crossens catchments, the Upper Weaver and the Bollin catchment



Mersey Rivers Trust has provided:

- Free advice
- Water Management Plans
- Signpost to further funding and advice
- Small grant funding to implement capital measures
- Workshops, demo days and pie and pint events
- Attended agri shows
- Support to develop catchment farmer groups ('cluster group')
- Farming newsletters
- Online farming hub
- Weaver Gowy Agri Sub-Group

Aim to help protect and improve water quality





## Key Statistics



115 water  
management  
plans written

66 farms  
committed to  
works with funded  
interventions



Over £230k of  
funding  
provided to  
farms



## Outcomes

- **409m of guttering on farm buildings:** to separate clean and dirty water and reduce foul drainage runoff.
- **562m<sup>2</sup> of yard and gateway resurfacing:** to prevent erosion and reduce the risk of water pollution from surface runoff.
- **2,491 m of fencing:** to prevent livestock entering water courses, reducing erosion of banks and soil runoff.
- **Two livestock crossing points improved:** to reduce poaching and reduce the risk of water pollution from surface runoff.
- **One water trough and 2 pasture pumps installed:** to provide livestock with drinking sources alternative to the watercourse in order to reduce bank erosion and water pollution from faecal contamination.
- **One bund installed:** to prevent surface water runoff and contamination of local watercourses.
- **115 farmers engaged at Pie and Pint evenings.**



# What are Nature Based Solutions?

Nature-based solutions (NbS) are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously benefiting people and nature.



# Examples of Nature Based Solutions





# Examples of Nature Based Solutions





# Examples of Nature Based Solutions





# Examples of Nature Based Solutions





# What can MRT Offer?

## Water Net Gain

- Ponds on farms to store water for business use or release back into local waterbody
- Focus on River Dean catchment
- Completed survey phase and will be able to share findings in next few weeks
- Could result in funding for trials and then full project from United Utilities



# What can MRT Offer?

## **Small Grant Funding and Water Management Plans**

- Have applied for funds from for small grants to implement naturebased solutions on farms
- Would be £5,000 grant per farm and / or creation of a Water Management Plan
- Focussed on rainwater harvesting, tree planting, ponds, scrapes, swales, wetlands etc
- Will know outcome of this in April
- Eligible if farming/managing land within Bollin catchment





# What can MRT Offer?

OCTOBER 2025

## Farming Newsletter



### WELCOME!

Welcome to the October 2025 edition of the Mersey Rivers Trust farming newsletter!

Read on to find out more about farming news and what's on offer this month, you can also keep up to date with our [Farming Hub](#) online.

#### Soil health and profit: lessons from mixed, arable and upland farms podcast

The DEFRA farming podcast have released an episode discussing how improving soil health can increase profitability on mixed, arable and upland livestock farms.

The episode explores how better soil health can reduce reliance on expensive inputs, build resilience and improve whole farm efficiency. To listen to this podcast episode, which lasts about 30 mins, click [here](#).





#### Catchment Sensitive Farming

Farmers interested in advice from Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Officers, are encouraged to enquire for advice now, so that they are ready to submit applications when the schemes open.

CSF can offer advice on:

- Soil health
- Pesticide handling
- Natural flood management
- Reducing ammonia emissions
- Sustainable water use

Defra regularly updates their [Farming Blog](#). To subscribe to the blog and ensure that you receive their latest farming updates click [here](#).

For more information email [csf.northwest@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:csf.northwest@naturalengland.org.uk) or fill in an advice enquiry form by clicking [here](#).

## Newsletter

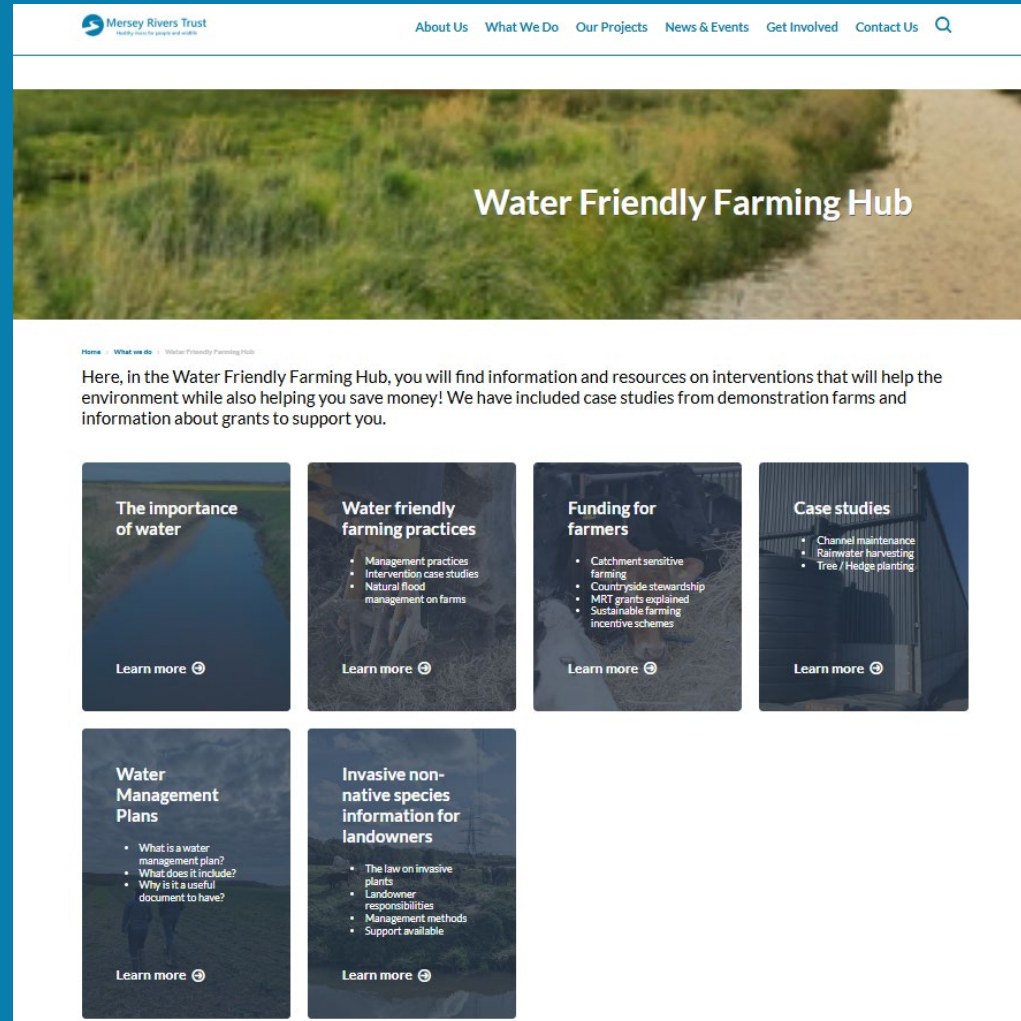
- If you sign up to our Farming Newsletter
- Gets sent out once a month
- Highlights training opportunities and local events
- Picks out items of interest and relevance from DEFRA blogs, and FAS information
- Signposts to other organisations running schemes
- Email us to sign up to the newsletter
- Also have online water friendly farming hub with

# What can MRT Offer?

## Farm Hub online

- Also have online Water Friendly Farming hub on Mersey Rivers Trust website
- Has case studies, events, how-to guides and information on where to go for further support

[www.merseyrivers.org/what-we-do/water-friendly-farming-hub](http://www.merseyrivers.org/what-we-do/water-friendly-farming-hub)





# Thank You

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