

3: Agriculture and Soils

This theme considers a range of land use and land management approaches on farms, which would complement Natural Flood Management and provide benefits and income for farmers. The main elements would be soils, hedgerows and tree planting.

Soils

Yorkshire Water, together with colleagues at the University of Hull, have been conducting world-leading research in our area, working with major landowners and farmers on improved soil management.

This brings many agricultural benefits:

- better soil water retention,
- drought tolerance,
- reducing fertiliser/additives and associated costs,
- carbon capture and credits for farmers/landowners,
- biodiversity credits,
- natural pest management,
- compliance with winter cover crop requirements.

Trees and Hedgerows

Our partners include HEYwoods and the Woodland Trust, both of whom are key to delivering the Northern Forest and Trees for Climate projects in our area. We will aim to communicate and coordinate their programmes within the West Wolds.

What are the Issues and Opportunities?

We are particularly keen to understand the issues and opportunities for landowners and farmers on the edge of the Wolds, and would like to become a useful partner to encourage and enable access to future funding such as ELM, Carbon and Biodiversity Credits, Tree funding etc. These benefits can be 'stacked' to provide a realistic alternative to the payments system which is being phased-out following Brexit.

Environmentally, these new approaches will provide considerable benefits for the water environment, as well as for soil health, biodiversity and pollution and carbon reduction.

Useful links:

www.sustainablelandscapes.uk.com



www.soilguide.co.uk

