

We all have a part to play in looking after our becks, rivers, lakes and their surrounding habitats and as a land manager you can do much to make a difference to the quality of water.

The Conserving Coniston Project and South Cumbria Rivers Trust is working with farmers and managers across five catchment areas looking at ways in which positive changes can be made to how land is managed for healthier watercourses. These changes benefit farmers and their livestock as well as local communities and the surrounding environment.

They will also help in compliance of the new *Farming Rules for Water 2018*.

Carrying out improvements could enhance the capital value of your holding and increase opportunities for further grants in the future.

***South Cumbria Rivers Trust through the Conserving Coniston & Crake Project can advise, plan, project manage and fund a variety of practical options for you, saving you time and money and making improvements for your livestock and the environment.***

## Feeding and Drinking Areas

Poaching around feeding and drinking areas can quite quickly lead to soil damage and could cause health problems for livestock and encourage runoff into nearby watercourses.

### **Agricultural benefits of feeding & drinking areas**

- Reduce soil damage and erosion, runoff and pollution of watercourses.
- Improve the land for grazing.
- Improve access to the feeding & drinking areas.
- Reduce the potential time & costs of restoring the land.
- Helps with livestock gathering.



*A winter feeding area which has been heavily poached by sheep.*



*A feeding pad away from the water course. This hard area prevents poaching and loss of sediment and soil from the land.*

### **Environmental benefits of improving feeding & drinking areas**

- Protects watercourses from soil runoff and sediment washing downstream
- Reduces erosion of banking, especially if fencing is done as part of the improvement works
- Improved vegetation and grassland habitats

*Hard standing installed at a livestock watering point. Previously the cattle were stood in deep mud, the farmer reported there were significant numbers of animals suffering reduced health and injuries linked to difficult conditions at the drinking point.*



## Feeding and drinking areas

### Points to Note

- Small reduction in productive land but done in order to prevent significant soil damage.
- It may be appropriate to also look at access and tracks to these areas and consider the possibility of fencing too.

### South Cumbria Rivers Trust/Conserving Coniston & Crake will

- Advise, plan and project manage the installation including any water course consent, planning permission and contractor liaison **for free**.



### Farming Rules for Water 2018

**From April 2018** all farmers in England will need to follow some new rules to protect water quality. The rules will ensure that farmers use fertilisers efficiently and avoid water pollution through surface runoff and soil erosion, standardising good farm practices that many will already be performing.

There are eight new rules; five for managing fertilisers and manure and three for managing soil.

The Environment Agency will be responsible for managing compliance with these new rules and will be carrying out checks.

### Catchment Sensitive Farming

Your local Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Officer can also give training and advice on practical solutions tailored to you and your farm.

The CSF Officer can talk to you about the availability of grants, business solutions that save money & time as well as the environmental benefits to making positive changes.

### Here to Help You

South Cumbria Rivers Trust as Conserving Coniston & Crake can discuss options and offer solutions that meet you and your needs as long as there are benefits to the watercourses on your land. Installations have, on other farms, saved the land manager/farmer time and money and improved conditions for livestock and the wider environment.

We can advise, plan, project manage and fund a variety of practical options for you, on a one-to-one basis so will look at any other bespoke options for farming improvements that impact positively on water quality. Together, we will review your current situation, identify potential opportunities and then develop an action plan.

More information sheets are available for:

- *De-culverting & beck re-naturalisation*
- *Fencing & gates*
- *Stream crossings and tracks*
- *Bank erosion and EWS (engineered wooden structures)*
- *Reducing water loss and clean water separation*



### Contacts

Mike West, South Cumbria Rivers Trust. 07780 475216, 01539 530047, [mike.west@scrt.co.uk](mailto:mike.west@scrt.co.uk)

Emma Abrams, Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer - 07778 829753, [emma.abrams@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:emma.abrams@naturalengland.org.uk)

The Farmer Network - [www.thefarmernetwork.co.uk](http://www.thefarmernetwork.co.uk), National Farmers Union - [www.nfuonline.com](http://www.nfuonline.com)



Conserving Coniston & Crake is a 3 year HLF project with the aim of improving water quality, habitat and biodiversity in the catchment area, through conservation activities and community engagement. The project is supported by South Cumbria Rivers Trust, the Coniston & Crake Catchment Partnership and other partners - the National Trust and the Lake District National Park Authority.

South Cumbria Rivers Trust, The Clock Tower Business Centre, Low Wood, Ulverston, LA12 8LY Office: 01539 530047  
Registered Charity No. 1114682

