Whitriggs Environmental Audit

2017
## Current Situation

### Strengths
- Wide range of habitats
- Good network of dykes
- High landscape value
- Heather moorland good condition
- Mixed farm system
- Significant woodland

### Weaknesses
- Water margins are open to stock
- Woodland needs management
- Few field margins to act as wildlife corridors

### Threats
- Limited time to put in habitat management
- Bad weather
- Lack of money to dedicate to conservation projects

### Opportunities
- Targeted sward management
- Open up wetter grassland
- Draw up 4 point plan
- AECS scheme
- Woodland Management through FGS
AECS Scheme

- 5 yr contract entered into
- All capital work to be done in yr 1
- Competitive funding
- Not all recommendations put into practice
Implementation

- Moorland Management – Summer hill grazing of cattle
- Wader Grazed Grassland – Margins fenced off
- Hedge Creation & Management
- Pond Restoration on Denholm Hill
- Scrub Control on Denholm Hill
- Grey Squirrel control
Options not taken up

- **Species Rich Grassland** – proposed fields next to Wader Grazed Grassland, so would restrict area for Spring turnout.
- **Wader & Wildlife Mown Grassland** - too restrictive due to 3 silage cuts
- **AECS application** is a cost and is competitive so may not be successful
4 point Plan

“Code of Good practice for the prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity”

“Guide to benefit your business, minimise the risk of pollution and improve environmental standards”
### 1. Reduce Dirty Water around the farm

#### Benefits
- Leave more space for Slurry & Effluent
- Reduce Contractor bills
- Reduce risk of pollutions

#### Example Recommendations
- Keep clean and dirty water separate
- Roofs on slurry and silage stores
2. Improve Nutrient Use

**Benefits**
- 100 cow dairy slurry produces £1500 of nutrient savings
- Build up nutrient levels to reduce purchased fertiliser

**Example Recommendations**
- Soil sampling, targeted use
- Plan applications
- Nutrient budgets taking into account FYM
Value of FYM

- Beef Cow produces 0.03t/day of manure
- Calf Produces 0.008t.day
- 140 cows/calfs x 150 Day winter = 798t

Potential Nutrients in FYM
- N 5.5 kg/t  P 3.5kg/t  K 8kg/t
- N @ £230/T, TSP & MOP @ £260/T
- 4389kg N @ 66p =£2,925
- 2793kg P @ 57p = £1,613
- 6384kg K @ 43p =£2745
Total Value = £7,283 (£9.12/t)
3. Risk Assessment for manure and slurry

Benefits

• Identify no-spread zones for spreading
• Demonstrate improvements in good practice
• Less likelihood of pollution occurring

Example Recommendations

• Targeted manure and slurry applications
• Keep a spreading logbook
• Follow good practice, provide map with risk levels clearly marked (e.g. gradient, wet areas etc)
4. Managing Water Margins

Benefits
- Improve biosecurity
- Reduce risk of run off pollution
- Allow plant growth, shelter for stock, reduce flooding etc.

Example Recommendations
- Site troughs etc on flat ground
- Fencing watercourses in grazed fields
- 10m no spread zone around watercourses, 50m no spread around springs, wells, boreholes