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Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change 2023-25

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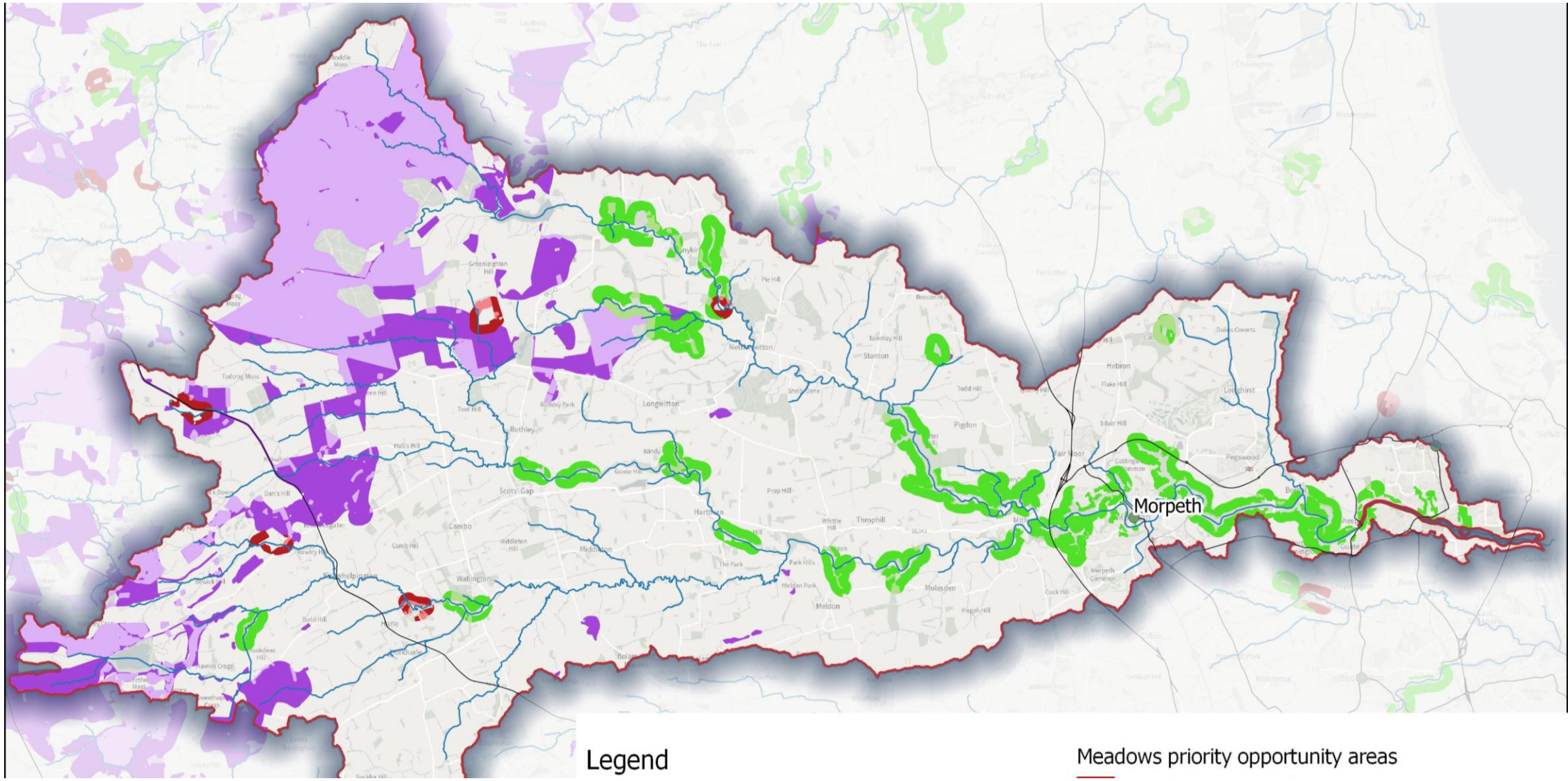

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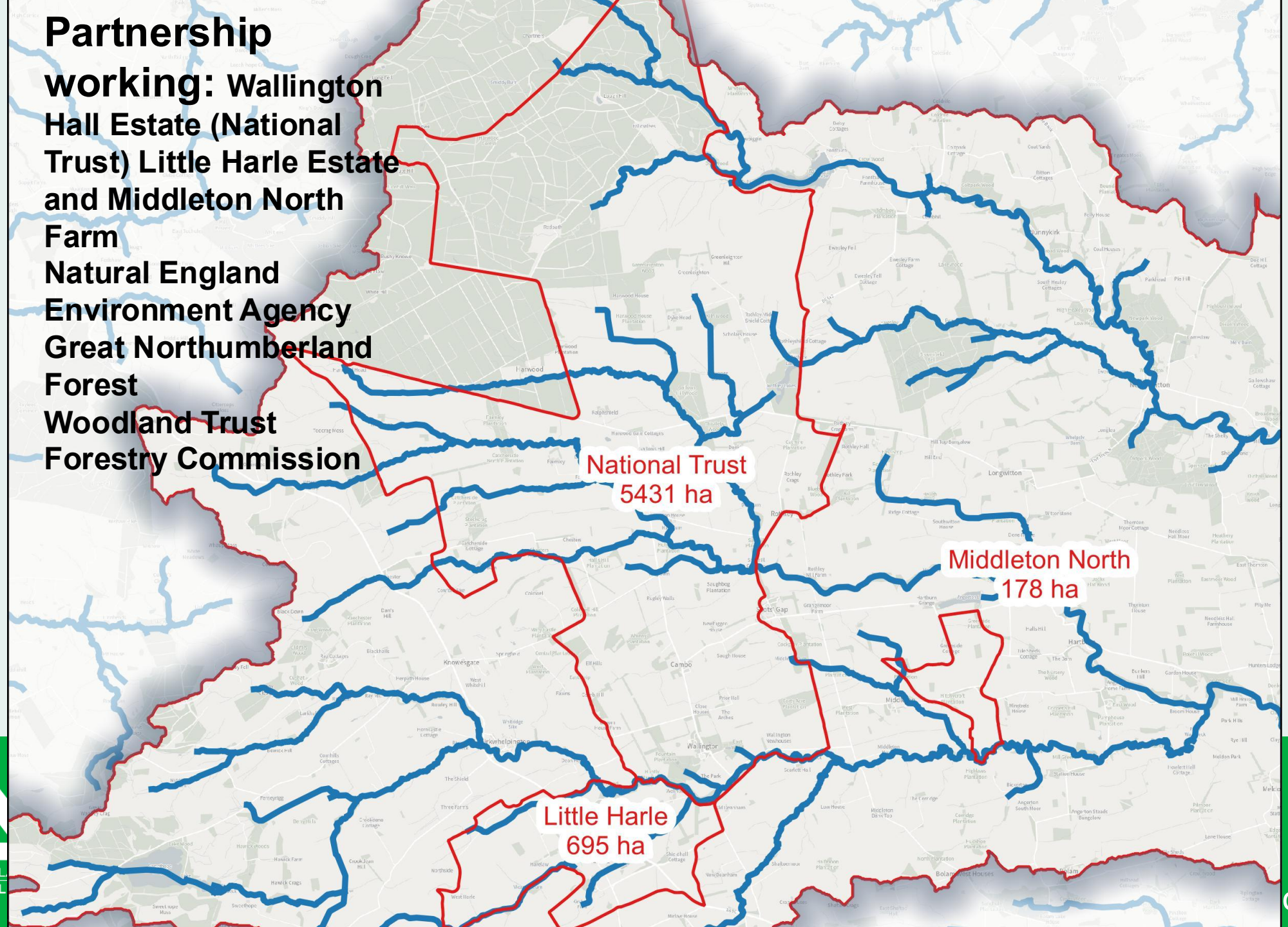
Partnership working: Wallington Hall Estate (National Trust) Little Harle Estate and Middleton North Farm
Natural England
Environment Agency
Great Northumberland Forest
Woodland Trust
Forestry Commission
National Trust
5431 ha
Middleton North
178 ha
Little Harle
695 ha

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What can we do? Every habitat within the project has been depleted but has the potential to sequester carbon and be improved for nature…

- Where sediment load is high in a water course, we can intercept sediment by slowing the flow through increasing floodplain connectivity and riparian habitat
- Where peat quality is threatened by drainage, we can block the drains (also called ‘grips’)
- Grassland can be managed to increase wildflower meadows and pollinators will follow
- Trees need successional planting and fencing where young trees are grazed off

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Impacts – wide hedgerows provide important bio-security protection for stock; wood-wise-hedgerows-and-hedgerow-trees.pdf (woodlandtrust.org.uk)

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Impacts – new hedgerows provide farm animals with protection from extreme weather events.

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Impacts – grassland diversity increases mineral take-up by plants through the soil and can improve a hay/ silage crop to benefit livestock; reference Enhancing improved grassland advice for livestock farming - Farm Wildlife

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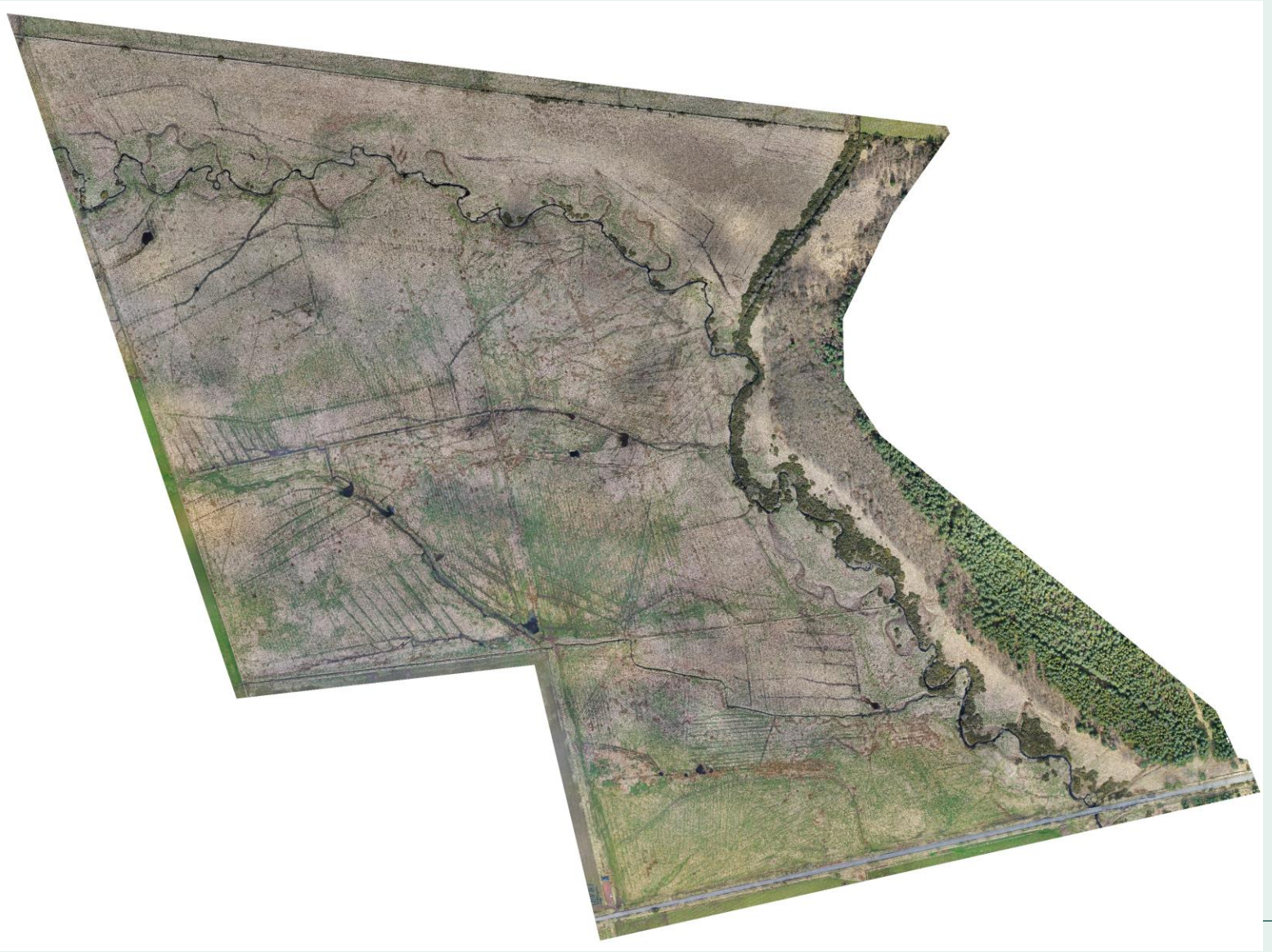
Impacts – monitoring soil builds a data set that can be used by farmers to improve their primary asset

Drone shot showing drains on Gallows Hill



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Impacts – diverting the Harwood Burn into old channels and re-wetting the floodplain to help address the natural hydrology after grip blocking has deepened the main channel.

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Impacts – the water held back by hundreds of these small leaky dams will help take the peak flow rates off high water events in the Wansbeck channel downstream

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Impacts – creating a series of shallow pools helps to store water at high rainfall and creates outstanding new habitat for wading birds

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Impacts – deep peat measurements in Harwood Forest presented a new site for peatland restoration

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Impacts – landowner engagement has been vital to the programme of changes on farms

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Impacts – the National Trust, a key partner, consider that the Wansbeck Restoration project has bolstered their Wilder Wallington work

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Hands on education opportunities have been created at degree level

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Impact - Education delivered at the primary level; the teachers said that the learning supported the children's understanding of the countryside

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Impact – the walks and photographic exhibition brought the project to a wide audience, increasing awareness

Thank you for listening

For more information please contact:

Lesley.Silvera@groundwork.org.uk

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HM Government · Natural England · Environment Agency · Forestry Commission · Royal Botanic Gardens Kew · Derbyshire Wildlife Trust · Freshwater Habitats Trust · Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust · Groundwork Changing Places Changing Lives · National Trust · Plymouth City Council

Working together to build the evidence for nature-based solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss