

Westwick Habitat Bank

Greenshank's first owned site, near Barnard Castle in County Durham: from intensively grazed sheep pasture to wetland, meadow, scrub and hedgerow for Biodiversity Net Gain and Nutrient Neutrality

ABOUT THE SCHEME

In 2025, we acquired our first site: Westwick, just under 25 hectares near Barnard Castle in County Durham.

Westwick was previously intensively sheep-grazed grassland: a tight, low-diversity sward of ryegrass and common bent, not much else. But the ground itself was hilly, rising and falling around a wetland feature at its centre that grazing alone couldn't touch. That gave us something to build on.

We're creating seven hectares of lowland meadow, nine hectares of other neutral grassland, four hectares of mixed scrub and five hectares of floodplain wetland mosaic, tied together with over half a kilometre of new native hedgerow. The site's veteran trees and existing hedgerows stay exactly where they are.

Westwick sits seven kilometres from the North Pennine Moors Special Protection Area, designated for hen harrier, merlin, peregrine and golden plover. Lapwing and oystercatcher were already recorded foraging on site during our baseline survey, and the wetland and bare ground scrapes we're creating are designed for these and other ground-nesting birds.

Westwick is also a Nutrient Neutrality scheme. Ending conventional grazing and fertiliser use will keep around 290kg of nitrogen a year out of the Teesmouth Habitats Sites, generating credits for developments across the wider Tees catchment.

We've secured Westwick's management for the long term with a Conservation Covenant, partnering with RSK Biocensus as Responsible Body. The long-term aim is to gift Westwick to a conservation charity, with an endowment to fund its management for good.

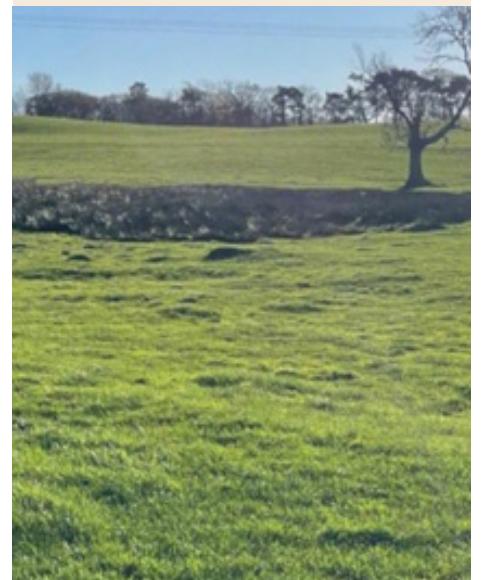
SCHEME BNG / NN

Status:

Taking Allocations
Durham County Council
LPA North Pennines NCA
Secured via Conservation Covenant

CONTACT

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HABITATS AVAILABLE

Broad Habitat	Metric Habitat	Distinctiveness	Condition
Grassland	Other neutral grassland	Medium	Good
Grassland	Lowland Meadows	Very High	Good
Heathland and shrub	Mixed Scrub	Medium	Good
Wetland	Floodplain wetland mosaic (CFGM)	High	Good
Hedgerows	Native species-rich hedgerow with trees	Very High	Good
Hedgerows	Native hedgerow (retained)	High	Good/Moderate
Individual Trees	Veteran trees (irreplaceable)	Irreplaceable	Good

READY TO BUY YOUR BNG UNITS?

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Or contact us at sales@greenshank-environmental.com for a bespoke order

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