

Greenshank.

Tees NN at Swinbank

A family farm on the Tees Lowlands rests five fields, easing the pressure on the Tees estuary.

ABOUT THE SCHEME

Swinbank is a family farm at Neasham, near Darlington, on the broad, open plain where the lower Tees meanders towards the sea. Nigel Swinbank has farmed all his life, but his daughter Kate, a Harper Adams graduate, now runs it day to day.

The land has grown cereals and grass for years. Now 38 hectares rest until 2030, with no fertiliser and no manure.

Grass takes over. The Swinbanks cut it once a year, for hay, in late July or August, and take the crop off the field. On two fields they sow a species-rich grass and wildflower mix, and let it flower and seed before the cut, as in a traditional hay meadow. Another carries a wild birdseed mix for farmland birds.

Farm nitrogen is one of the pressures on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. These fields stop about 570 kilograms a year washing off the land, and developers in the Lower Tees catchment buy that saving as nutrient credits.

Water companies are upgrading their wastewater treatment works, so developers need more mitigation before 2030 than after. These temporary credits cover the extra years and end with the scheme.

A Conservation Covenant with Fera Science Limited secures the scheme.

SCHEME BNG / NN

Status:
NN (Temp Fallowing)
Darlington Borough Counci LPA
Tees Lowlands NCA
Secured via Conservation Covenant

CONTACT

sales@greenshank-environmental.com



NUTRIENT CREDITS AVAILABLE

Catchment	Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA and Ramsar (Lower Tees)
Nutrient	Nitrogen
Credit type	Temporary, to 1 April 2030
Capacity	About 570 kg TN a year
Land	38 hectares, five fields
Price	TBC

TOWNS & CITIES

- Neasham
- Darlington
- Yarm
- Stockton-on-Tees
- Middlesbrough
- Newton Aycliffe
- Hartlepool
- Redcar
- Durham
- Richmond

NCAS

- Tees Lowlands

LPAS

- Darlington Borough Council

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