CASE STUDY: ULLSWATER CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT CIC

OVERVIEW

Historically, the route of Copper Beck has been modified and moved across the floodplain, causing the beck to become higher than the floodplain. This meant the field was unable to drain properly, was in a poor condition, and offered no flood resilience to downstream communities. The floodplain restoration work at Matterdale is designed to restore natural processes to the watercourse. The project was delivered by the Environment Agency, Eden Rivers Trust, Woodland Trust and Cumbria Wildlife Trust at a cost of £17,000.

ABOUT THE SCHEME

It was decided to restore Copper Beck back into its original meandering course through the floodplain. The beck is now designed so that water enters the floodplain during very high rainfall events and when the water level drops, flood water will go straight back into the channel, enabling the field to dry out again. As a result, this then slows the release of flood water downstream, helping to protect communities at risk of flooding.

The purpose of the scheme was to demonstrate that river restoration projects can be delivered by people who have useful local knowledge, combined with expert knowledge from the Environment Agency and Eden Rivers Trust. The project demonstrates that you can utilise natural flood management in the form of temporary flood water storage to benefit the environment and conservation, but still fit in with a working farm. Drainage has been improved on the floodplain to work more effectively during periods of heavy rainfall, and to improve ground conditions. Additionally, part of the floodplain is to be fenced off to help create a scrubby nature friendly area, which will provide multiple benefits for biodiversity and habitats.

Watch a YouTube video about the project here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6S3rRlUFqjE&feature=youtu.be








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