



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Capital Grants improve livestock facilities in the Lake District

Town End Farm, Troutbeck

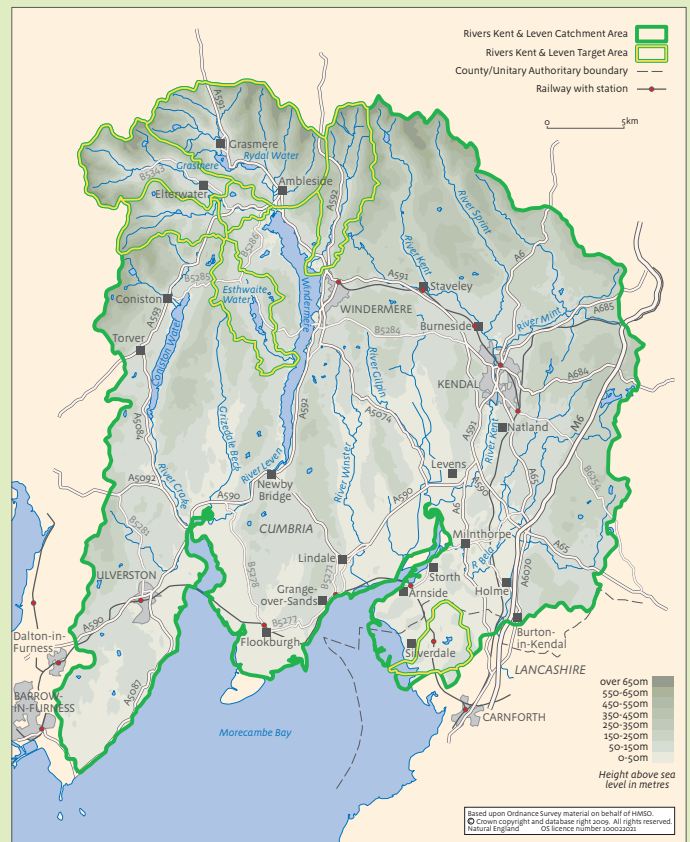
Rivers Kent and Leven Catchment (42)

CSFO: *John Osborne*

Farm Description

Town End Farm is located in the classic Lakeland valley of Troutbeck. Angus Freeman runs the farm with help from his father, Doug. Angus is a tenant of the National Trust and has been running the farm for the last two years and was brought up there with his father, Doug, managing the farm for more than 30 years.

The land is predominantly pasture, with some land on the fells and is stocked with a combination of beef and sheep. The Freeman's keep pedigree Limousin cattle, which are housed over winter. The buildings on the farm are typical of a Lakeland hill farm and are protected so any developments are tightly monitored to ensure that the character of the valley is maintained.



Livestock gathering area

Pollution Issues

Trout Beck is one of the main waterways in the Windermere catchment. The Windermere Catchment Restoration Project has been established to help improve the quality of the lake, which is suffering from sedimentation and has increased nutrient levels.

The key issues for Trout Beck and Windermere are increased nutrient loadings and higher levels of sediment to the beck and lake.

Pollution Solutions

Angus applied for a roof to cover his livestock gathering area, which is next to his cattle shed. He was successful with his CSF grant application and has just completed the project. The roof combined with the catchment tank that was already in the yard area will work well to prevent any more dirty water getting into the dirty water storage, which will help Angus with his day to day work, as it will save him time by having to make fewer applications to land, offer more flexibility, ensure less trafficking and reduce damage to the soil structure. One of the additional challenges for Angus and Doug was having to work within the tighter building restrictions of the National Park. This meant that the Freeman's had to put more money towards the project than they might if not in such a sensitive area.

The Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer will also be working with Town End Farm to produce a nutrient management plan. This will assess the nutrient levels of the land, nutrients available on the farm from manures and help target fertiliser applications and ensure that applications meet the requirements of the grass. The result will minimise excess application of nutrients thereby reducing the likelihood of nutrient run off.



Roofed livestock gathering area

Farmer Engagement and Motivation

Angus is keen to be involved with the Catchment Sensitive Farming and has already made changes on the farm that benefit the environment that work with the farm business plan. Town End Farm is being seen by many other farmers in the area as an example of how environmental change can be achieved by the industry working together with bodies traditionally seen as regulators.

Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO)

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