

Fferm Ifan Ecosystem Service Improvement Scheme

Lead organisation: Fferm Ifan

Grant Award: £696,352

Email: ffermifan@gmail.com

Location: Upper Conwy catchment

A collaborative farmer led project taking landscape scale action on land management to improve ecosystem resilience and the services they provide. Fferm Ifan is a cooperation of 11 tenant farmers based on the Ysbyty Ifan estate. Fferm Ifan farmers seek to improve and manage natural resources in a more sustainable and efficient way. The project covers approximately 2,456 Ha and includes new targeted land management actions which will also deliver socio-economic benefits to the 11 farms and to the wider rural community Fferm Ifan live within. The farmers have grazing rights to the Migneint, one of the largest areas of blanket bog in Wales, which is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.

As part of the work the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) are providing guidance on catchment sensitive planting. They will be planting more farmland trees and hedgerows along streams to help protect riverside habitats, reduce soil erosion and alleviate flood risk downstream. Ditch blocking on the Migneint will continue and help raise the water table, store carbon and will also reduce flood risk in the Conwy Valley.

The farmers are also taking part in grazing trials to encourage more biodiversity and wildlife in the peatland. As part of the grazing trials, cattle have been introduced to the Migneint for the first time in living memory and there are plans in place to restore habitat to encourage more lapwings and curlews to breed successfully in the area.

The group is also working closely with a number of partners including the National Trust, Snowdonia National Park Authority, RSPB, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Bangor University and Natural Resources Wales in order to share ideas and learn from the expertise and experience of the partners.





An exciting element of the project will be looking into developing new markets for the non-food products of sustainable land management – clean, slow water, carbon storage and thriving biodiversity. The main aim of the group is to work together to ensure that the future generations of these traditional farming families can continue to thrive within this Welsh-speaking upland community.

Habitat Restoration: Identifying & Restoring upland habitat to encourage & sustain lapwing and curlew populations on the Migneint with bird surveys and monitoring ongoing

Peatland Restoration: Restoration of the Migneint Blanket Bog through 10,000m of peatland ditches blocked and 100 ha of land to be re-wetted

Reducing Agricultural Pollution: Fencing off water courses to keep stock out, improving water quality to the river Conwy. Soil testing of approximately 240 improved grassland fields surrounding the Migneint to ensure efficient planning for nutrient, soil and water management

Natural flood Risk Management: Grip blocking and re-wetting, 5.3 ha of new trees planted, 800m of streamside corridors and 10,000m of hedgerows

Sustainable Grazing: Reintroduction of cattle for low level sustainable grazing to increase biodiversity and improve peatland habitat

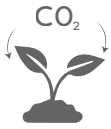
Woodland Management & Planting: Creating new woodland, providing 5.3 ha of new tree cover targeted through catchment sensitive planting

Rural Skills and Heritage: Training courses on traditional and new farming methods with 22 training days already completed

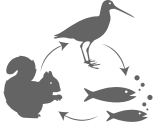
Building Collaborations & Partnerships: Working with organisations to provide guidance and education working with the National Trust, Snowdonia National Park Authority, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, RSPB, CEH, and NRW to share ideas and learn from the expertise and experience of the partners

Training & Job Creation: Training on how to effectively monitor the peatland vegetation by the farmers, enabling results to be recorded

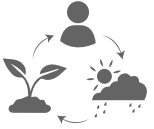
Knowledge Transfer & Innovation (KT&I): Development of Payments for Ecosystem Services to define, measure and assess ecosystem services and determine market value. Carbon footprint measurement, measuring and looking at the groups' carbon footprint compared to similar farms across Wales



Carbon Sequestration - supported by restoration of blanket bog, catchment sensitive planting and planting of farmland trees and riparian hedgerows.



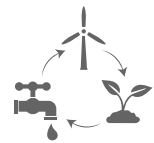
Enhanced Biodiversity - supported by the reintroduction of cattle and restoration of habitats.



Ecosystem Resilience - supported by the restoration of habitats, fencing along rivers, catchment sensitive planting and the planting of farmland trees and hedgerows.



Reduced Flood Risk - supported by restoration of blanket bog, grip blocking and re-wetting and planting of farmland trees and riparian hedgerows.



Soil, Air & Water Quality - supported by restoration of blanket bog, fencing along rivers, grip blocking and rewetting and planting of farmland trees and hedgerows.



Rural Skills & Heritage - supported by an education programme, volunteer programmes, clearing of public footpaths and building a green infrastructure community hub.



Community Cohesion - supported by job creation, engagement activities with local schools and the general public and development of engagement tools.



Development of Skills Capacity & Expertise - supported by training courses on farming methods and working with organisations to provide guidance and education.



Climate Change Adaptation - supported by restoration of blanket bog, planting of farmland trees and riparian hedgerows.

Get Involved - If you would like to see what the Fferm Ifan farmers have achieved please see the website.