

Biodiversity net gain statement

Replacement farm buildings

The Barn, Paddock Farm, Park Gate Road, West Slaithwaite, HD7 5XA

1. Overview of the location

Paddock Farm is located on Park Gate Road, West Slaithwaite, between the villages of Marsden and Slaithwaite. The farm has been active as a rural, land-based, business for decades. We bought the farm in 2003 when it was in a run-down state and have since developed an agroecological market garden business, growing fruit and vegetables for local consumption. In 2003 the farm was in a poor state ecologically, with seven acres of over grazed/over compacted fields, few birds and little sign of diverse meadow plants apart from Rough Meadow and Rye grasses.

2. Increase in biodiversity

We are committed to enhancing and increasing biodiversity through our activities. Through observation we feel we have substantially increased biodiversity on the farm and avoided and reversed harmful environmental practices since we bought Paddock Farm in 2003. All of the land under our stewardship is managed to organic standards and we have enhanced and created a variety of rich habitats through soil building (increasing insects, worms and microbial and mycorrhizal activity), ecological hay meadow management, the enhancement and creation of hedgerows, provision of rough pasture and leaving some areas without active management to 'rewild'. It has been really noticeable how bird, insect, mammal, plant and soil life has increased and diversified over the last 20 years. Barn Owls, Kestrels and Sparrowhawks hunt over our fields but not the surrounding farm land. We feel this is an indicator of more small mammal and bird life on the farm, supported by our land management practices.

3. The proposed new agricultural building

The proposed new building will have no negative impact on biodiversity. Invasive Himalayan Balsam in the surrounding area will be removed.

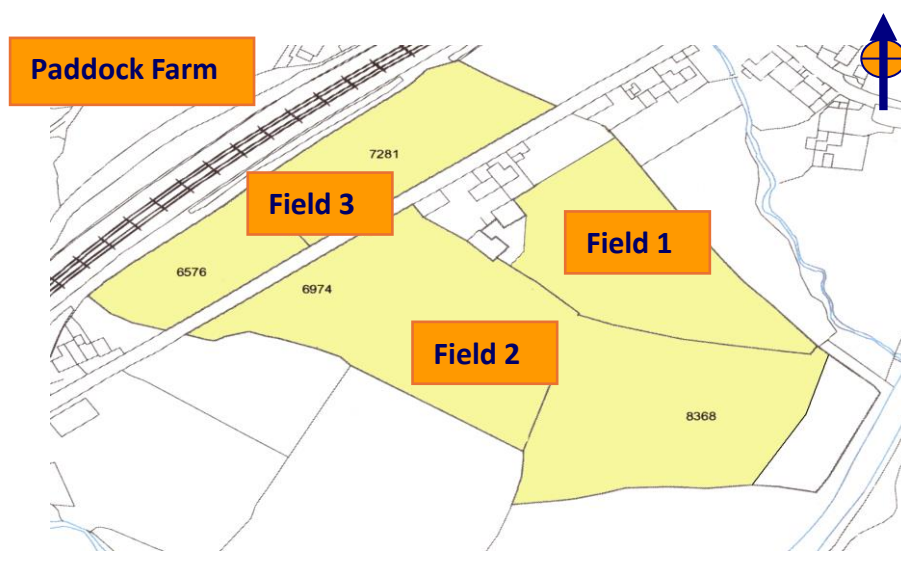
Indeed, we hope it will achieve biodiversity net gain as set out in Kirklees Council policies. We will include surrounding planting to attract and provide additional habitat for insects and birds. On the building we are committed to providing bat boxes and nesting boxes for birds. There will be a minimum of downward facing external lighting to keep the surrounding area dark.

4. Botanical survey

In May 2013 we commissioned a botanical survey of the fields to get a better understanding of the farm flora. This was after 10 years of our more ecological approach to hay meadow management. The species found in the different fields are set out below.

Two years later, in 2014, we also had the opportunity to further enhance the diversity of plant species in our fields. Supported by Pennine Prospects and the RSBP our fields were cut and harrowed in late summer and green hay was spread on the fields, collected from a more biodiverse local

meadow. We have yet to undertake another botanical survey, but we intend to do this again and would expect to see further increases in biodiversity.



Species identified, 2013

Field 1	Field 2	Field 3
Italian rye grass <i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian rye grass <i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Perennial rye-grass <i>Lolium perenne</i>
Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Perennial rye-grass <i>Lolium perenne</i>	Annual meadow grass <i>Poa annua</i>
Timothy grass <i>Phleum pratense</i>	Annual meadow grass <i>Poa annua</i>	Rough meadow grass <i>Poa trivialis</i>
Common bent <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Rough meadow grass <i>Poa trivialis</i>	Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i>
Red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i>	Yorkshire fog <i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Timothy grass <i>Phleum pratense</i>
Cocksfoot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Soft brome <i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Common bent <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>
Creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Marsh foxtail <i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	Red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i>
Field thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Meadow foxtail <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Wavy hair grass <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>
Common sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Meadow oat <i>Helictotrichon pratense</i>	Cocksfoot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Timothy grass <i>Phleum pratense</i>	Crested dog's-tail <i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i>
Dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Common bent <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Greater willowherb <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i>	Field buttercup <i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens balsamifera</i>	Wavy hair grass <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	Field thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>
	Cocksfoot <i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
	Crested dog's-tail <i>Cynosaurus cristatus</i>	Common sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i>
	Tufted hair grass <i>deschmsia cepitosa</i>	Broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>
	Prickly sedge <i>Carex muricata</i>	Sheeps sorrel <i>Rumex acetosella</i>
	Glaucous sedge <i>Carex flacca</i>	Dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
		Daisy <i>Bellis perennis</i>
		Common catsear <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>

	Soft rush <i>Juncus effusus</i> Toad rush <i>Juncus bufonius</i> Creeping buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i> Field buttercup <i>Ranunculus acris</i> Nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i> Broadleaved plantain <i>Plantago major</i> Ribwort plantain <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> Field thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i> Spear thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i> Common sorrel <i>Rumex acetosa</i> Broad-leaved dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> Dandelion <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> Common sow thistle <i>Sonchus arvensis</i> Daisy <i>Bellis perennis</i> Scentless mayweed <i>Matricaria perforata</i> Common catsear <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> Common ragwort <i>Senecio jacobea</i> Greater willowherb <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> Himalayan balsam <i>Impatiens balsamifera</i> White clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> Meadow vetchling <i>Lathrus pratensis</i> Angelica <i>Angelica sylvestris</i> Mosses <i>Campylopus introflexus</i> <i>Polytrichum juniperum</i> <i>Brachythecum rutabulum</i> <i>Dicranella heteromalla</i> <i>Eurhynchium praelongum</i>	Common ragwort <i>Senecio jacobea</i> Greater willowherb <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> Self heal <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> Tormentil <i>Potentilla erecta</i> White clover <i>Trifolium repens</i> <i>Lathyrus pratensis</i> Bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> Marsh bedstraw <i>Gallium palustre</i> Harebell <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> Mosses <i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i> (indicator of acidic substrate) <i>Campylopus introflexus</i>
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