

Upper Aire Reverse Auction Specification

# Drinking Points

**Why?**

Drinking points provide the following NFM benefit:

- Providing movable water troughs will reduce soil Compaction, improve the soil’s ability to hold water and reduce surface runoff.  
In channel drinking points help reduce erosion and sediment input.
- In channel drinking points reduce livestock access to watercourses, improving water quality through a reduction in poaching and trampling - both sources of sediment diffuse pollution into rivers.



Solar powered drinking point. ©Farm Care UK

**Specifics for intervention:**

<p>What</p>	<p>Allowing livestock to drink in rivers increases the amount of silt and sediment in the river, smothering gravel habitats which are the spawning grounds of fish, and leading to a decrease in aquatic diversity. Rivers become over-widened caused by trampling of banks leading to erosion, which reduces the depth and flow rate of the river, further encouraging silt deposition and reducing water quality. Stock drinking points can be provided as: gravity fed drinking troughs, solar pumps, pasture pumps or creating a formal drinking area along river using concrete railway sleepers or similar, to reduce issues of over-widening and increased sediment load.</p>
<p>Where – site selection</p>	<p>Drinking points may be provided wherever riparian fencing prohibits stocks access to watercourses and alternative drinking supply is required.</p>
<p>When</p>	<p>Drinking points can be installed at any time. However, there must be an alternative water source for livestock whilst the works are carried out.</p>
<p>How</p>	<p>Off-stream watering can be provided to stock using either a mains supply, or by diverting or pumping water from the watercourse into troughs.</p>
<p>Must knows</p>	<p>Drinking points may be provided if access to water is fenced off and alternative drinking supply is required.</p>

**Benefits for your farm:**

- Providing specific drinking points reduces risk of livestock catching waterborne diseases or developing lameness.

**Ongoing maintenance requirements – Low**

- Must be regularly checked to ensure animals have access to water.

**Please note: Interventions must be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

*If you have any questions or require any more information please contact*  
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