



Sandilands Regeneration

Creating environmental & social change





Core Vision - *Transforming a sheep pasture into a biodiverse, edible garden to benefit all life, human and non-human*

Core Mission – *To support and care for land and community so all can thrive, together.*

Core Values – *Mutual respect, care, interdependence, collaboration, connectivity, balance, optimism, gratitude, learning, justice, sustainability, restoration and regeneration*

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Introduction

Sandilands is a 2.5 acre, south-west facing field at 200m, located under Cross Fell, in the Eden Valley. It is now managed by Elizabeth Woodcock of Close To The Earth, a regenerative gardening practice.

It was reseeded to produce seed hay in the 1970's, and in the 1980's most of the native hedging was removed. Since the early 2000's it has been used as sheep pasture, with hay taken annually, and has had a small amount of synthetic NPK fertiliser added each year.



Sandilands Regeneration is a community coming together to create an edible landscape for all.

Vision

A biodiversity restoration project that will transform a sheep pasture into an edible garden creating habitat for native species and educating local communities on how we, humans, can live with, and learn from, nature.

This is essential for our needs, such as well-being and food. How we can re-connect back into the web of life, realising our interdependency with the natural world and how we have a role as guardians of it.

Taking a forest garden approach, there will be a number of key trees, with layers of perennial vegetation, including fruit and nut trees, a vegetable garden area, a composting site with compost toilet, covered area and parking. The land will be for the community, human and non-human, a meeting place to illustrate how we can all live together harmoniously.

Project aims

• Create a biodiverse landscape including

- native hedging
- fruit and nut trees
- vegetables
- a pond
- wildflowers

• Include and educate the wider community through workshops in areas such as

- Forest gardening in a Northern Climate
- Regenerative practices
- Landscape ecology and conservation
- Biodiversity restoration
- Composting
- Human/non-human reconnection
- Water and rainwater management

Learning outcomes – GUARD

By coming together as a community to restore habitat, our learning outcomes can be summed up in GUARD.

- **G**uardianship of the land that we are protecting and caring and all those that live there
- **U**nderstanding our connection with the natural world is vital and essential for our well-being.
- **A**wareness of the long term proposition that we are caretakers for our descendants
- **R**eap the rewards and enjoy working together outdoors
- **D**iscover individual species of plant and animal and what habitat they need to thrive, while learning about the diverse food webs from the soil up.

*Defined GUARD means to watch over, protect and safeguard.

Moving forward

First Steps

Re-hedging Sandilands is step one in the regeneration process. This will create a shelter belt, habitat and a food source for native animals and humans. The Woodland Trust are providing part-funded native, deciduous hedging with 2,400 trees at 6 plants per metre. The perimeter of the field is approx 400 metres along 3 perimeter sides as the roadside retains a hedge. These trees will be delivered on January 9th

Community Involvement

We welcome groups interested to be involved in the whole journey or certain aspects, please contact elizabeth@closetotheearth.co.uk

Current plans include

- Tree planting
- Designing a restoration plan for the field
- Composting workshop including building compost bays
- Siting and building a pond
- Planting an orchard
- Creating a vegetable garden, including fencing
- Learning about regenerative land management, agro-forestry, forest gardening, wildlife gardening.

Once funding has been secured we will be fulfilling the aims listed above in Project Aims.



About

Close To The Earth is a regenerative gardening practice founded by Elizabeth Woodcock. Her training and experience includes:

- MA (Cert) in Environmental Values, UCLAN
- Regenerative Practises, Savory Institute
- Master Composter, Garden Organic
- RHS Horticulture, Newton Rigg College
- Naturalistic Garden Design, Dan Pearson
- Forest Gardening, Agroforestry research Trust (Martin Crawford)
- Living and learning on permaculture projects in Europe
- Level 1 Dry Stone Walling
- 10 years gardening experience
- BA Hons Politics (European Studies), Durham University
- To find out more about her current work go to www.close-to-the-earth.co.uk

