

ENVIRONMENTAL LECTURE SERIES

Wednesday 25th May 2005 at 7.30 PM

*Westlakes Research Institute
Westlakes Science & Technology Park, Whitehaven, Cumbria*

"The Patterdale Project - Environmental Stewardship in Action"

Ian Crosher, Rural Development Advisor (RDS) - DEFRA , Cumbria

Reform in the Common Agricultural Policy and recommendations from the Curry report into "Sustainable Farming & Food" mean that the nature of agriculture in Britain is changing.

Environmental Stewardship is a new agri-environment scheme launched by DEFRA in March this year, which provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England who deliver effective environmental management on their land. It consists of three levels; Entry Level Stewardship; Organic Level Stewardship and Higher Level Stewardship.

This talk looks at these in more detail and covers the benefits they can deliver - discussing how they try to match sustainable habitat management with the farming system.

The Entry Level scheme is accessible to all types of land managers and is designed to deliver wide benefits across the whole countryside. The Higher Level Scheme is more targeted and will deliver more complex management for high quality sites, in particular it will safeguard existing habitats and species from the Biodiversity Action Plan and develop increasing amounts of relevant communities where this is possible.

Existing schemes such as The Patterdale Project will be discussed together with a number of diversification projects that have been set up within Cumbria to show "Stewardship in Action".

EVERYONE WELCOME – NO CHARGE

**To avoid disappointment please reserve a seat: contact Wendy McBain on 01946 514112,
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