

**Date:** August 2019 - March 2025

**Email:** [info@merseyrivers.org](mailto:info@merseyrivers.org) | **Website:** [www.merseyrivers.org](http://www.merseyrivers.org)

**Location:** Upper Weaver Catchment

**Funding:** Water Environment Grant, Water Environment Improvement Fund, Better Rivers Better North West Fund, Bentley Environmental Foundation Fund

## Background

Across six years and six projects Mersey Rivers Trust have worked in partnership with Severn Rivers Trust, United Utilities, the Environment Agency and Bentley Environmental Foundation to support farmers with improving the water quality in the Upper Weaver, Cheshire. This area was chosen due to the moderate to poor Water Framework Directive status. Farms were provided with free advice through the creation of water management plans and awarded small grants to implement the improvement measures identified.



## Project Timeline

- **August 2019 - February 2022:** 80 farm water management plans written, interventions carried out at 40 farms. One 'Pie and Pint' evening held engaging with 20 farmers.
- **April 2022 - March 2023:** 10 farm water management plans written, interventions carried out at 15 farms. One 'Pie and Pint' evening held engaging with 25 farmers.
- **April 2023 - March 2024:** 5 water management plans written, interventions carried out on 11 farms. One 'Pie and Pint' evening held engaging with 20 farmers.
- **April 2024 - March 2025:** 20 water management plans written. Three 'Pie and Pint' evenings held engaging 50 farmers.



## Key Statistics



115 water  
management  
plans written

66 farms  
committed to  
works with funded  
interventions



Over £230k of  
funding  
provided to  
farms

## Outcomes

- **409m of guttering on farm buildings:** to separate clean and dirty water and reduce foul drainage runoff.
- **562m<sup>2</sup> of yard and gateway resurfacing:** to prevent erosion and reduce the risk of water pollution from surface runoff.
- **2,491 m of fencing:** to prevent livestock entering water courses, reducing erosion of banks and soil runoff.
- **Two livestock crossing points improved:** to reduce poaching and reduce the risk of water pollution from surface runoff.
- **One water trough and 2 pasture pumps installed:** to provide livestock with drinking sources alternative to the watercourse in order to reduce bank erosion and water pollution from faecal contamination.
- **One bund installed:** to prevent surface water runoff and contamination of local watercourses.
- **115 farmers engaged at Pie and Pint evenings.**