

# The Allerton Project Training Courses







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# FACILITIES

The Allerton Project is based at Loddington in Leicestershire and has been managed as a commercial farm and research centre for more than 25 years. It is the home to ground breaking conservation research where the impact of different farming systems on biodiversity, soil and water are studied in depth. All the courses take place at our award-winning visitor centre which is heated with wood fuel and insulated with straw from the farm.

Farm walks and practical elements of the course take place on the 320 hectare arable and grassland farm and course material is constantly updated with the latest results from our research team. This unique combination of farming, research, demonstration and education provides the highest quality learning experience.



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# STAFF & EXPERTISE

## DR ALASTAIR LEAKE DIRECTOR OF POLICY & THE ALLERTON PROJECT

Alastair has spent many years developing holistic approaches to production that maximise yields and biodiversity whilst minimising environmental impacts. Alastair is a renowned speaker and translates the practicalities of farming right through from the River Welland catchment to the policy forming arena of Westminster.



© Hugh Nutt

## PROF. CHRIS STOATE HEAD OF RESEARCH, THE ALLERTON PROJECT

Chris has wide-ranging expertise in the agricultural environment and coordinates the Allerton Project's research at a range of scales, from experimental plots to the landscape scale. He has published more than a hundred research papers, has research experience in southern Europe and West Africa and was an author of the UK's National Ecosystem Assessment. He has formed links with other applied researchers in leading universities and research institutions in the UK and abroad. Chris is a farmer in his own right and conducts participatory research with farmers and agricultural stakeholder groups locally.



## PHIL JARVIS - HEAD OF FARMING, TRAINING & PARTNERSHIPS

Phil has been involved in all farm-based research and demonstration at the Allerton Project since 1992. Phil has combined his practical farming activities with education and training specialising in soil, cover crops and regenerative farming systems. Phil has an MSc in Sustainable Agriculture and is currently the NFU Environment Forum Chair.



## SAYA HARVEY - TRAINING MANAGER

Saya has recently joined the Allerton project team as Training Manager. Saya studied Agriculture and Environmental Science at Newcastle University as an undergraduate and completed her PhD in 2008. Saya has a wealth of practical experience having worked as an ecologist for FWAG, ADAS and Scottish Power on Agri-environment research and management projects. She is now managing a small arable farm in Leicestershire and works as an environmental consultant delivering Countryside Stewardship and Rural Development applications for landowners. Saya is BASIS qualified and does all her own agronomy and fertiliser recommendations on the farm.



© Tim Scrivener

## JENNY BUSSELL - SOIL SCIENTIST

Jenny joined the Allerton Project from Nottingham University, where she worked as a research fellow on a project funded by the British Beet Research Organisation. The project worked with farmers across the East Midlands to investigate sugar beet establishment, cultivation, and the use of cover crops for improving soil structure. Previously Jenny completed a PhD at Aberystwyth University focusing on plant and soil interactions under simulated climate change conditions in the Arctic. The work focused on greenhouse gas emissions and soil microbial health, which remain a key interest for Jenny in her work at the Allerton Project.







## COURSES

- BETA CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT
- AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES FOR THE FUTURE
- CLEAN AIR, WATER & HEALTHY SOILS
- POLLINATORS & INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT
- REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE



# BETA CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT

**Duration:** This is a three day course to complete the core modules and one specialism which is required to pass the course. An additional day is needed to complete both specialisms.

The course is aimed at agronomists, land agents, farm managers and conservation advisers preparing them to advise and implement effective farmland conservation management. This aspect of farming is becoming as important as production and it is likely that this course will become a requirement for advisers delivering agri-environment schemes in the future.

The course is a compulsory part of the BASIS diploma with four core modules and two specialisms.

**CORE MODULES INCLUDE:**

- Farmland, Wildlife & Habitats – Conservation & Improvement.
- Farming and the Wider Environment.
- Soil Management.
- Water & Environmental Protection.

**AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISM INCLUDES:**

- Natural and biological control, pollinators and soil life.
- Environmental hazards and risk management of using pesticides on farm.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISM INCLUDES:**

- Key habitats and species, habitat management, restoration and creation.
- Landscape scale management, planning agri-environment schemes.

**BASIS**

BETA & Conservation Management – Accredited Course | Credit Value 15 | Level 5 |

Cost: £499 with £120/person for added specialism included lunch and refreshments. Rate negotiable for groups.



FOR MORE DETAILS [www.gwct.org.uk/allerton](http://www.gwct.org.uk/allerton) Email: [allerton@gwct.org.uk](mailto:allerton@gwct.org.uk) Tel: 01572 717220

# AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES FOR THE FUTURE

**Duration:** One day course with a farm walk.

The course is aimed at farmers, agronomists, environmental advisors and farm business advisors. It covers existing agri-environment schemes and sources of funding for conservation work as well as looking at future schemes and how these will influence farming systems.

**THE COURSE INCLUDES:**

- What is driving future agri-environment schemes.
- Current schemes, transitions and payments.
- How ELMS is developing, payments by results.
- Farming, food and the environment – a question of balance.
- Challenges and opportunities.
- Whole farm planning a new approach to crops and natural capital.
- Net zero and carbon emissions.

**FARM WALK:**

- Identifying natural capital and using technology to record it.
- Integrating cropping and environmental habitats.
- Water conservation.
- Woodland management.
- Maximising biodiversity.
- Agroforestry.
- Countryside access, educational activities and volunteers.
- Rural pursuits, health and community well-being.

Cost: £150/person including lunch. Full course rate negotiable for groups. BASIS and NRoSO points available.



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# CLEAN AIR, WATER & HEALTHY SOILS

**Duration: One day course with a farm walk.**

The course is aimed at farmers, farm contractors, agronomists, conservation advisors and farm business advisors. It covers all aspects of soil and water management within the farmed environment as well as the potential to influence air quality.

THE COURSE INCLUDES:

- Soil and water in the farmed environment.
- Rotation, roots and cultivations.
- Soil health, soil care, soil armour.
- Soil and water links to air.
- Cultivation equipment.
- Field to landscape conservation measures for soil and water.
- Conventional, organic and regenerative approaches.
- Measuring organic matter.
- The role of food, feed and fuel.
- Profit and economics.

FARM WALK:

- Soil structure and visual assessment.
- Cultivation equipment.
- Cover, catch and companion cropping.
- Rotations & herbal leys.
- Stock and stockless systems.
- Using agri-environment options to protect, rejuvenate and enhance.
- The role of plant protection products.

Cost: £150/person including lunch. Full course rate negotiable for groups. BASIS and NRoSO points available.



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# POLLINATORS & INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

**Duration: One day course with a farm walk.**

The course is aimed at farmers, spray operators, agronomists, environmental advisors and farm business advisors. It will cover a range of subjects that form the basis of a fully integrated pest management system that will deliver the most effective pest control.

THE COURSE INCLUDES:

- Pollinators and their importance for Integrated Pest Management.
- Threshold monitoring & resistant varieties.
- Sprayer & nozzle technology and using it effectively.
- What we can learn from organic approaches.
- Using agri-environment schemes to design effective IPM systems.
- The economics of effective IPM.

FARM WALK:

- Pollinators & habitats.
- Seed mixes and establishment.
- Biobeds.
- Buffer zones and LERAPS.
- The role of grass and livestock.
- Multi objective use of agri-environment options.

Cost: £150/person including lunch. Full course rate negotiable for groups. BASIS and NRoSO points available.



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# REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE

**Duration: One day course with a farm walk.**

The course is aimed at farmers, agronomists, conservation advisors and farm business advisors. Delegates will develop a good understanding of sustainable farming systems that will be more resilient to climate change, policy change and economic pressures.

**THE COURSE INCLUDES:**

- Rotations and continuous soil cover.
- Reducing cultivations, impact on soil and gross margin.
- Building organic matter, C:N Ratio and nutrients.
- Grass and herbal leys, stock and stockless systems.
- Farming without glyphosate.
- The role of agri-environment schemes.
- Maximising potential of plant protection products.
- Case studies of regenerative approaches.

**FARM WALK:**

- Integrated Farm Management for business planning.
- Using precision farming technology.
- Grass and livestock demonstration.
- Catch, companion and cover cropping trials.
- Cultivation trials.
- Use of agri-environment schemes to achieve a system shift.

Cost: £150/person including lunch. Full course rate negotiable for groups. BASIS and NRoSO points available.



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## HOW TO BOOK

To book or for further details contact  
Katy Machin on 01572 717220 or  
[allerton@gwct.org.uk](mailto:allerton@gwct.org.uk)

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## BESPOKE TRAINING & VISITS

We offer bespoke training days to fit with your specific requirements. Whether you are a farmer cluster group, an agricultural college or a corporate business we can design a day especially for you. Please contact us with your requirements and we will provide a training outline and quotation.

GWCT run a series of game management courses, including grey partridge conservation. The events and courses calendar at [www.gwct.org.uk](http://www.gwct.org.uk) provides further details of scheduled courses.





## THE GWCT'S ALLERTON PROJECT

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Designed by Chloe Stevens.

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