



PROMOTING FARM BIODIVERSITY

A photograph of a dense green hedge under a cloudy sky. In the foreground, a wire fence with wooden posts runs across the frame. The hedge is thick and reaches above the fence line. A large tree is visible on the right side of the hedge.

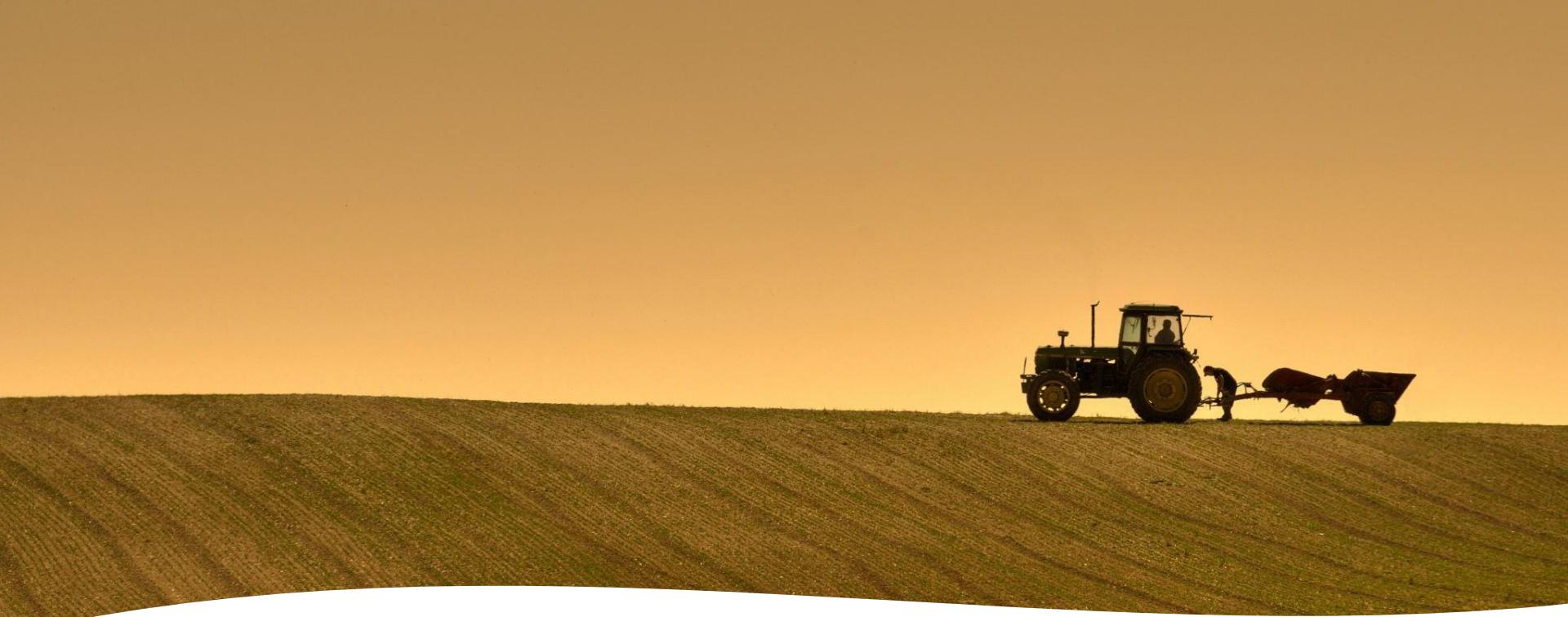
THE IMPORTANCE OF HEDGES

Andrew Robinson (Farms) Partnership - Organic since 1999
A mixed farm, with an Aberdeen Angus Beef Herd, Arable Crops & Sheep



Hedgerow Loss

- Between the 1940s and the 1990s about 25% of UK hedgerows were destroyed – about 4,000 miles a year!
- Farmers were encouraged to intensify the production of food so hedges were removed to make more room for crops and make it easier for machines to move around the fields.
- Hedgerow loss has slowed since the 1990s, but neglect and damage remain significant threats.



HEDGE NEGLECT



HEDGES IN ENGLAND

LET'S LOOK ON THE POSITIVE SIDE!

A GREAT, HEALTHY, DIVERSE HEDGE

- There are 242,334 miles of farmland hedges in England
- It's now illegal to remove any hedge on agricultural land
- Between 2004 and 2022, 3,272 miles of hedges have been planted via ELM's schemes (Countryside Stewardship)
- In 2022 alone 1105 miles of new hedges of have been planted and 1146 miles of gapping up has been achieved
- Hedges may only be cut between beginning of September and the end of February. Many farms leave hedges late into the winter to allow birds to clear as many berries as possible
- A Devon farmer, Robert Walton, over two years, has counted 2070 different species of flora and fauna in an ancient hedge on his farm, he included fungi, mosses, lichens and even tiny freshwater molluscs in the ditch attached to the hedge!

Knowledge and dedication!

FARMING OPINION

CPRE SURVEY JULY 2022



Key findings

Importance of hedgerows

86% of farmers surveyed believe hedgerows are important to them and their business.

CPRE's hedgerow expansion target

82% of farmers surveyed support CPRE's campaign for a target to increase hedgerows by 40% by 2050, if the target is properly funded through ELMs or other government policies

Benefits of hedgerows

86% of farmers surveyed see wildlife habitat/nature corridors as the top benefit of having hedgerows, with 64% seeing shelter for crops or livestock as the second top benefit.

Barriers to planting hedgerows

94% of respondents have experienced barriers to planting hedgerows, with the top two barriers being lack of resource (time/money) and the nature of government support.

Government schemes

70% of respondents would be encouraged to plant more hedgerows with government incentives and 54% would plant more with simple, accessible schemes.

New hedgerow planting

59% of respondents have planted hedgerows in the last ten years and are likely to plant more in the next five years.

HEDGES ON OUR FARMS

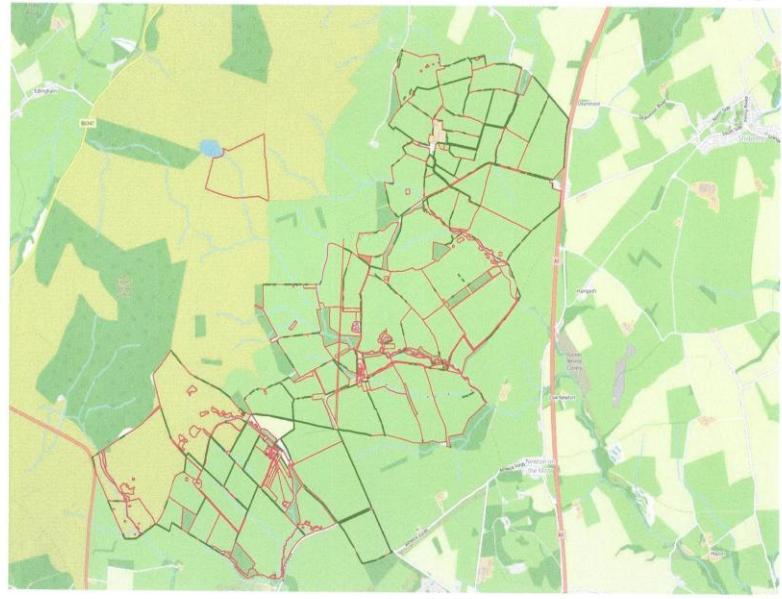
TUGHALL

Land App



GLANTLEES, SHIELDYKES & SNIPEHOUSE

Land App



WE HAVE A TOTAL OF 34.4 miles OF HEDGES ON OUR FARMS
(OUTLINED IN GREEN)

Produced on Land App Ver. 6, 2025.
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HEDGES – DIVERSE BENEFITS

- HEDGE ESTABLISHED 26 YEARS AGO
- IT'S OFFERING WIND PROTECTION & SHADE FOR LIVESTOCK
- PRIMROSES HAVE NATURALISED WHERE STOCK CAN'T GRAZE!
- THE HEDGE IS ALSO SERVING AS A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR LINKING UP TO A SMALL CONIFER WOOD. HEDGES ARE A FARM'S ARTERIES



- THIS HEDGE WAS GAPPED UP FIVE YEARS AGO AND RE-FENCED TO ALLOW IT MORE SPACE
- HAWTHORN, CRAB APPLE AND ELDER ARE PICTURED
- GRASSY UNDERGROWTH FOR MAMMALS AND INSECTS AND GREATER STICHWORT IN FOREGROUND



HEDGES – DIVERSE BENEFITS

ONE OF OUR HEDGES WITH GORSE GIVING THE BENEFIT OF SOME OF THE VERY EARLIEST FLOWERS, YIELDING POLLEN AND NECTAR FOR OUR HONEYBEES AND EARLY FORAGING INSECTS



IVY IN A HEDGE WILL PROVIDE THE VERY LAST BURST OF FOOD FOR BUTTERFLIES IN LATE OCTOBER – WE COUNTED OVER FOURTY RED ADMIRALS ON ONE SMALL LENGTH OF A FARM HEDGE



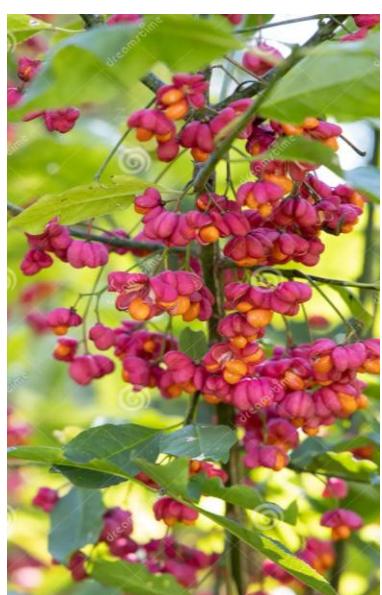
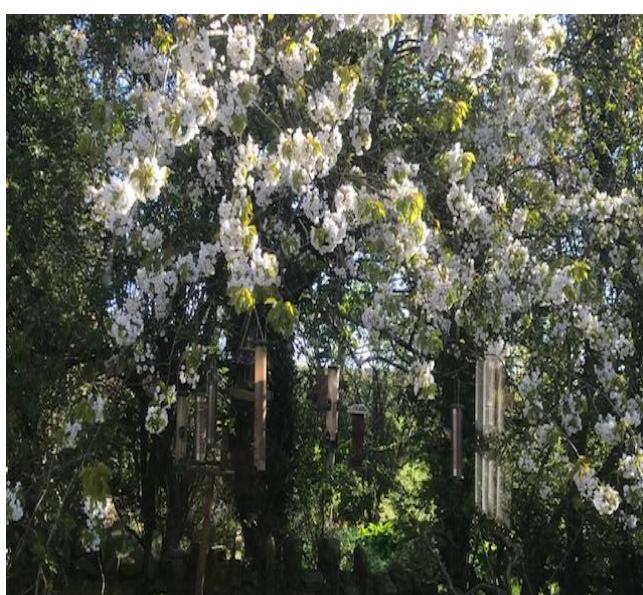


HONOUR THE WEB OF LIFE, SEEK THE PATTERN THAT CONNECTS, PERCIEVE THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF OUR WORLD AND RECOGNISE THE ONENESS OF OUR WORLD



HEDGES WITH TREES PROVIDE HIGH VANTAGE POINTS FOR NESTING BIRDS





NAME ANY OF THESE ? – ONE IS EASY !!!

LAND FOR WILDLIFE BIO DIVERSITY BEYOND THE HEDGE

**WILDFLOWER
ARABLE MARGIN**



46.65 acres

GRASS MARGIN



14.50 acres

LAND FOR WILDLIFE BIO DIVERSITY BEYOND THE HEDGE

**24 METRE MARGIN OF OATS LEFT
UNHARVESTED FOR BIRDS (44 acres)**



**PLOTS FOR BIRDS, POLLINATORS AND
SMALL MAMMALS (49 acres)**





REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AND OTHER EXPERIMENTS !



HAY MEADOW RESTORATION









**OUR NEW BARN OWL SHED – BUILT BY FIPL VOLUNTEERS
MANY THANKS FOR ALL THEIR HELP**

