

Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

Field 1: Action Plan details

Species/Habitat Action Plan	Ancient and/or Species-Rich Hedgerows HAP
Lead Partner/Agency	MAFF
Steering Group/Other organisations	<p><i>Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented..</i></p> <p>Yes. MAFF and its Farming and Rural Conservation Agency, DETR, SERAD, NAWAD, NI EHS, EN, CA, CCW, SNH, LGA, Planning Officers Society, NFU, CLA, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, ADAS, FWAG, ITE, Butterfly Conservation, British Association for Shooting and Conservation, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, CPRE</p>
Work programme in existence?	<p><i>Please state yes or no. If in existence, please use the agreed work programme to update Field 3 and Table B.</i></p> <p>Yes.</p>

Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 etc						

1. Halt the <i>net</i> loss of species-rich hedgerows through neglect and removal by the year 2000, and <i>all</i> loss of hedgerows which are both ancient and species-rich by 2005. 2. Achieve the favourable management of 25% of species-rich and ancient hedges by the year 2000, and of 50% by 2005. 3. Maintain overall numbers of hedgerow trees within each county or district at least at current levels, through ensuring a balanced age structure.		X	X	X	X	Monitoring of this target will not be possible below the level of major regions.
		X	X	X	X	
		X	X	X	X	

Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1							
.1 Ensure that grant aid for the management, restoration and establishment of hedgerows is available to farmers. As part of this process, consider a standard payment for all hedge works across land management schemes, to facilitate up-take and administration.		X	X	X	X	Yes	Ongoing
.2 Promote the uptake of, and consider extending the scope of, ESA, Countryside Stewardship, Tir Cymen, etc., for the management and restoration of ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows, and for the establishment of hedgerow trees. When promoting the management and restoration of hedgerows, emphasize the term important hedgerows (to be defined under the Environment Act 1995 Regs).		X	X	X	X	Yes	Ongoing
.3 Explore the possibility of making the favourable management of ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows a condition of arable set-aside payments.	X					Yes	Ongoing
.4 Promote the use of practices that can protect hedges from fertilisers and pesticides, such as conservation headlands and set-aside strips.	X					Yes	Ongoing
.5 Seek to extend the hedgerow protection clauses in the Environment Act to Scotland then enforce the requirements of the Act with respect to important hedges once the necessary regulations have been passed.				X		Yes	Ongoing
.6 Enforce the requirement for felling licences for hedgerow trees as appropriate, and encourage the planting of replacements.	X					Yes	Ongoing
.7..Ensure that development plans contain							

policies to promote the protection and management of hedges and seek to minimize adverse effects on hedges from planning proposals.		X	X	X	X	Yes	Yes
5.2							
.1 Encourage the retention and favourable management of ancient and/or species rich hedgerows that form an integral part of, enhance, or link Natura 2000 sites.		X	X	X	X	Yes	Ongoing
.2 Encourage favourable management of ancient and/or species-rich roadside hedges, especially favourable cutting practices.		X	X	X	X	Yes	Ongoing
.3 Consider the practicability of establishing registers of ancient and species and species-rich hedgerows.		X	X	X	X	Yes	Ongoing
5.3							
Consider the development of hedge management skills through training, especially for contractors.	X					Yes	Ongoing
5.4							
Liaise with relevant authorities in France and Eire to exchange information and ideas on hedge conservation, and in particular to form partnerships to gain EC funding.	X					Yes	Ongoing
5.5							
.1 Define <i>important</i> hedgerows which should be afforded protection through the Environment Act 1995.	X					Yes	Ongoing
.2 Redefine the definition of species-rich hedges, and identify priority areas for conservation action, through supporting further systematic UK-wide research into the types of hedges that occur, their biodiversity, and their regional distribution.	X					Yes	Ongoing
.3 Carry out sample survey at 10 year intervals in regions throughout the UK to enable trends in ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow status and in numbers of hedgerow trees to be accurately determined.		X	X	X	X	Yes	Ongoing
.4 Consider the need for further research on economic outlets for the produce of hedge management such as biomass and fuel wood.	X					No	Yes (NFA)
.5 Consider research on the effects on wildlife of different hedge management regimes.	X					Yes	Ongoing
.6 Research into the colonisation of wildlife from hedges into new woodlands established next to old hedges.	X					No	Yes (NFA)
5.6							
Continue to promote an awareness among the public and land managers of the importance of hedgerows and their	X					Yes	Ongoing

associated features for wildlife, of the continuing loss of hedgerows, and of the need for management to maintain biodiversity.							
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Field 4: Assessment of status

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
UK							X
England							
Northern Ireland							
Scotland							
Wales							
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region)							
Insufficient information because monitoring data for UK will not be available until results of CS2000 and NI2000 analysed. Significant lengths of hedgerow have been planted and restored under agri-environment schemes (9,254 km in England, 1,530 km in Wales, 444 km in Scotland and 281km in NI, up to 1.4 1999). In E&W, removal of most (but not all) ancient and species rich hedgerows prevented by Hedgerow Regs 1997 since June 1997. However, lack of appropriate management is likely to remain a significant problem.							

Field 5: Summary statement

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

Overall progress is well underway on most of the actions proposed. However insufficient data is currently available to measure progress against the targets (see Field 4). Strengthening the Hedgerow Regulations to bring the criteria defining 'important hedgerows' in line with the BAP would largely prevent removal of species rich hedgerow in E&W as defined in the BAP. Incentives available to farmers to plant and restore hedgerows are currently limited by overall resource constraints. The Government is consulting on optional elements of Agenda 2000, including cross compliance.

Field 6: Signing off

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	J.Osmond: Steering Group Chairman	S.Allday: Steering Group Secretary
Organisation	MAFF	MAFF
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	12 October 1999	12 October 1999

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC Biodiversity Information Service
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 Tel: 01733 562626 Fax: 01733 555948 E-mail: lpr99@jncc.gov.uk
 Monkstone House
 City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY

Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 etc. Halt the <i>net</i> loss of species-rich hedgerows through neglect and removal by the year 2000, and all loss of hedgerows which are both ancient and species-rich by 2005.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>					
<i>England</i>					X
<i>Northern Ireland</i>					X
<i>Scotland</i>					X
<i>Wales</i>					X
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):	Data unavailable until 2000				

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 etc. Achieve the favourable management of 25% of species-rich and ancient hedges by the year 2000, and of 50% by 2005.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>					
<i>England</i>					X
<i>Northern Ireland</i>					X
<i>Scotland</i>					X
<i>Wales</i>					X
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):	Data unavailable until 2000				

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 etc. Maintain overall numbers of hedgerow trees within each county or district at least at current levels, through ensuring a balanced age structure.				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>					
<i>England</i>					X
<i>Northern Ireland</i>					X
<i>Scotland</i>					X
<i>Wales</i>					X
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):	Data unavailable until 2000, and then only at regional level.				

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	5.1.1 Ensure that grant aid for the management, restoration and establishment of hedgerows is available to farmers. As part of this process, consider a standard payment for all hedge works across land management schemes, to facilitate up-take and administration (DANI, MAFF, SOAEFD, WOAD).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Government considers that expenditure on capital grants provides best value for public funds when part of a long-term management plan for conservation and targeted towards areas of highest priority. Other members pressed for wider availability of grants and favoured a starter, stand-alone, scheme not constrained by 10-year agreements.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Aid available under agri-environment schemes for laying, coppicing and planting of hedges. Standard methods of calculation now in place in all four countries [but see constraints to action].	Action by MAFF, SERAD, NAWAD, DANI
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Agri-environment scheme funding currently limited by overall UK and EU budgetary constraints. No funding currently available in NI. G't currently consulting on modulation and cross-compliance. Government's long term objective remains to phase out EU production subsidies and to use some of the resources for agri-environment and rural development schemes.	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	New agri-environment schemes will be introduced under Rural Development Reg from 2000. G't will continue to keep hedge management payments under review as part of regular scheme payment and policy reviews.	Action by MAFF, SERAD, NAWAD, DANI

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	5.1.2 Promote the uptake of, and consider extending the scope of, ESA, Countryside Stewardship, Tir Cymen, etc., for the management and restoration of ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows, for the planting of new hedgerows, and for the establishment of hedgerow trees. When promoting the management and restoration of hedgerows, emphasize the term important hedgerows (to be defined under the Environment Act 1995 Regs) (CCW, DANI, MAFF, SOAEFD, WOAD).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Promotion of schemes as above.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Although MAFF has no current plans to designate new ESAs, strong candidates would be considered on their merits should they come forward. Hedges considered important in the local targeting process will score higher for Countryside Stewardship assessment. CS conditions now applied to ESAs. New, all Wales, Tir Gofal scheme launched. Condition of scheme is that hedges must be retained and those that are stockproof must be retained as such. Work virtually complete on new single Scottish scheme with basic protection for existing hedges and aid for new hedges. DANI introduced new scheme in May 99, applicable to all farmed land outside NI ESAs, which requires compliance with Hedgerow Code of Practice; no finance currently available for this option.	Action by MAFF NAWAD SERAD DANI.
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	As in 5.1.1	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	New schemes to be introduced under RDR from 2000	Action by MAFF, SERAD NAWA D, DANI

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	5.1.3 Explore the possibility of making the favourable management of ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows a condition of arable set-aside payments (DANI, MAFF, SOAEFD, WOAD).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Consultation on whether and how to introduce cross compliance currently underway.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	

Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Decisions await results of consultation (consultation period closes end Sept).	Action by MAFF, SERAD, NAWAD DANI.
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	MAFF considers that cross compliance conditions must be easily understood, simple to enforce, and not distort the competitive position of farmers.	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	In longer term continue to press for phasing out of EU subsidies and diversion of some of these resources into agri-environment and rural development measures.	Action by MAFF SERAD NAWAD DANI

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	5.1.4 Promote the use of practices that can protect hedges from fertilisers and pesticides, such as conservation headlands and set-aside strips (DANI, MAFF, SOAEFD, WOAD).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Continual promotion by means of conservation advice from conservation bodies, Codes of Practice, and by conditions and measures in appropriate schemes.	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Promoted by conservation advice from ADAS, FWAG and other bodies (e.g. BCTV GCT, RSPB). Covered by MAFF Code of Practice on Pesticides and by some pesticides approval conditions. Pesticides Code of Practice revised to give more specific advice, especially on conservation headlands. Built into BASIS and FACTS accreditation schemes.	Action by Various orgs.
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	

Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	Appropriate messages will be included in forthcoming Code of Good Agricultural Practice for Wildlife and Landscape.	<i>Action by MAFF</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	5.1.5 Seek to extend the hedgerow protection clauses in the Environment Act to Scotland then enforce the requirements of the Act with respect to important hedges once the necessary regulations have been passed (DETR, LAs, SOAEFD).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Action on Scottish legislation dependant on new Scottish Parliament. In meantime SNH to gather data on extent of ancient and species rich hedges in Scotland.	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Interim report of survey produced for Hedgerows SG in April 99.	<i>Action by SNH.</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	Survey of species-rich hedgerows carried out in Scotland so far considered to give incomplete picture-methodology of appealing to public for records disappointing; most records obtained from field visits.	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	Gaps in data be filled primarily by further field research and by data from CS2000. Scottish Register to be available by end of 1999.	<i>Action by ITE, SNH</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	5.1.6 Enforce the requirement for felling licences for hedgerow trees, as appropriate, and encourage the planting of replacements (FA).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	FA to enforce felling regs for hedgerow trees as for trees elsewhere: and encourage the planting of replacements.	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	

Output and timescale	LAs made aware of obligations.	Action by FC
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	Initial confusion amongst certain LAs between requirements of Hedgerow Regs and Felling Regs largely resolved although localised problems remain.	
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	Discussion currently underway between FC and DETR to exempt trees in a hedgerow subject to an application for a hedgerow removal notice from separate submission of application for felling licence. Timetable dependent on general revision of Hedgerows Regulations.	Action by FC/ DETR

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	5.1.7 Ensure that development plans contain policies to promote the protection and management of hedges and seek to minimize adverse effects on hedges from planning proposals (DETR, DOE(NI), LAs, SO, WO).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Advice issued by POS DETR to consider further in context of revising PPG9. S, W and NI also to consider	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Issue of letter in Feb 1999 from Chair of Planning Officers Society's (POS) Rural Topic Committee to other POS members on other Topic Committees and thus to the widest cross-section of Society members.	Action by POS DETR SE NAW EHS
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	

Output and timescale	<p>The SG originally suggested that something suitable might be included in the POS's 'Better Local Plans' document. This was published before POS became involved with the SG and does not contain any specific hedgerow policy examples. A more specific 'model' policy might be considered if this document were to be revised.</p> <p>DETR and country equivalents to consider further the implications of A10 of Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Action by POS</p> <p>DETR and country equivalents</p>
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Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	5.2.1 Encourage the retention and favourable management of ancient and/or species rich hedgerows that form an integral part of, enhance, or link Natura 2000 sites (CCW, DOE(NI), EN, SNH).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	EN to encourage this through site management agreements albeit not many hedgerows in their own right designated as SSSIs. MAFF to target any linking areas, deemed locally important by EN, through Countryside Stewardship grant scheme. Similar situations in Wales and NI. SERAD to consider similar arrangements.	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Work plan action underway	Action by Ag. Depts
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale		Action by

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	5.2.2 Encourage favourable management of ancient and/or species-rich roadside hedges, especially favourable cutting practices (DOE(NI), DoT, LAs, Highways Agency (HA))	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Guidance required for hedge cutting by Highways Authorities and for Local Authorities for hedges beside trunk and rural roads respectively	

Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Brief guidance already issued by both Associations. HA preparing Landscape Management Handbook, suitable for use by Highways Authorities, containing more detailed guidance on hedges; SG has provided comments on draft. SG also assisting LGA and POS in drafting of more detailed guidance to local authorities.	<i>Action by</i> HA LGA/ POS/SG
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Funding for production/distribution of guidance for local authorities.	
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	Completion of HA's Handbook expected early 2000 Further consideration of content and possibilities for production of local authorities guide.	<i>Action by</i> HA SG

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	5.2.3 Consider the practicability of establishing registers of ancient and of species-rich hedgerows (CCW, DANI, DOE(NI), EN, LAs, SNH, SOAEFD, WOAD).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Sub-group of SG established to consider the issue.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	SG agreed with conclusion of sub-group that it was not practicable to establish such a register for hedges in E & W. Sub-group to develop guidelines for the local organisations collecting such data to ensure they worked to common standard. Survey in Scotland for establishment of Scottish Register is underway (see 5.1.5 above). DANI holds information on types of field boundaries, gathered as part of administrative work for agri-environment schemes. It will consider the practicalities of collating this information for NI.	<i>Action by</i> SG's sub-group. DANI
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	Sub-group have currently postponed further work on guidelines pending proposed revision of criteria for important hedgerows in revised Hedgerow Regulations.	

Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale	Further work by sub-group dependent on revision of Hedgerow Regulations. NI developments await consideration of practicalities by DANI.	Action by Sub-group. DANI

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	5.3. Consider the development of hedge management skills through training, especially for contractors (ATB, LAs).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Assess existing facilities and success in getting message across to customer.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.	
Output and timescale	Secretariat have received assessment from FWAG and ADAS of their success in getting green message across to customer. Independent evaluation of ADAS and FWAG advice expected by April 2000	Action by SG Sec.
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)		
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale	Complete assessment of existing management courses. Encourage potential users to take up existing training opportunities. Consider funding training under the Rural Development Regulation Evaluate MAFF free advice programme by April 2000	Action by SG Sec All orgs. Ag Depts. MAFF

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	5.4. Liaise with relevant authorities in France and Eire to exchange information and ideas on hedge conservation, and in particular to form partnerships to gain EC funding (CCW, DANI, DoE(NI), EN, LAs, SNH, SOAEFD, WOAD).
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Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Promote such liaison.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	MAFF is participating in a hedge project co-ordinated by the French Institut pour le Developpement Forestier.	Action by MAFF
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)		
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	Output of project will be website and guidelines for hedge establishment and management in 2001.	Action by MAFF

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	5.5.1 Define <i>important</i> hedgerows which should be afforded protection through the Environment Act 1995.	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Important hedgerows defined in Hedgerows Regulations 1997. Government announced review of Regulations on 29 May 1997.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Regulations Review Group reported to Ministers in April 1998; Ministers' decision now awaited on results of research by ADAS into Group's proposed criteria for defining important hedgerows.	Action by DETR MAFF NAW
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	'Important' hedgerows defined in 1997 Hedgerows Regulations. Refined definition now awaiting results of Government's conclusions on Regulations Review Group's Report.	

Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	'Important' hedge defined in Hedgerows Regulations 1997. This definition to be further refined following review of Hedgerows Regulations.	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale	DETR/MAFF/NAWAD to complete review of Hedgerow Regs. Public consultations expected on Ministerial proposals arising out of review.	Action by DETR MAFF NAW

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	5.5.2 Redefine the definition of species-rich hedges, and identify priority areas for conservation action, through supporting further systematic UK-wide research into the types of hedges that occur, their biodiversity, and their regional distribution (CCW, DANI, DoE, DoE(NI), EN, SNH, SOAEFD, WOAD)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Ensure Countryside Survey provides maximum statistically reliable and relevant data on hedgerows. Ensure any additional funds that may become available are directed for maximum effect.	
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.	
Output and timescale	ECOFACT research project continuing analysis of hedgerow information obtained from CS1990 survey. CS2000 and NI2000 surveys currently underway; interim results expected to be published at the end of 2000. Species rich hedgerows likely to be redefined in context of revising Hedgerow Regs	Action by ITE/ DETR/ EHS/ MAFF
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)		
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Ongoing	
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale	SG to report on most suitable future use of any further funds available for gathering data on hedgerows	Action by SG

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	5.5.3 Carry out sample survey at 10 year intervals in regions throughout the UK to enable trends in ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow status and in numbers of hedgerow trees to be accurately determined (DANI, DoE(NI), DOE, SOAEFD, WOAD).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	Countryside Survey already fulfils action in Great Britain. NI committed to similar survey for 2000	

Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	CS2000 currently underway in GB. NI2000 currently underway in NI.	Action by ITE/ DETR. EHS
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	SG to consider in say 2001 need for an interim survey Countryside Survey to continue.	Action by ITE/ DETR SG

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	5.5.4 Consider the need for further research on economic outlets for the produce of hedge management such as biomass and fuel wood (CC, DANI, DoE, FA, SOAEFD, WOAD).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	SG aware of CoCo research on countryside products. Has considered and rejected case for further research.	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	SG concluded that there was no need for further research.	Action by SG
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Yes	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	

Output and timescale	No further action proposed.	Action by
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Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	5.5.5 Consider research on the effects on wildlife of different hedge management regimes (DANI, DoE, MAFF, SOAEFD, WOAD).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	MAFF to consider results of research when available and its implications for advice on and grants for hedge management.	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Various research projects underway or recently completed e.g. MAFF funding: major project on hedge management (£100k pa for 5 years; smaller project on hedge establishment; and, with DETR, ECOFACT. Related work includes research on birds. Non-MAFF work includes: ITE study on berry yield and Wales hawthorn project.	Action by MAFF, DETR, NAWA D ITE
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	Take account of research results in determining advice and incentives programmes.	Action by MAFF

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	5.5.6 Research into the colonisation of wildlife from hedges into new woodlands established next to old hedges (CCS, DoE(NI), EN, SNH, FA)	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Considered in the light of the review of the research requirements arising from the UK BAP, carried out by PIEDA.	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	

Output and timescale	PIEDA accorded such research relatively low priority. No SG member has begun such research.	<i>Action by</i>
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Not started.	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	Such research not considered worthwhile.	<i>Action by</i>

Published action/organisation(s) responsible <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>	5.6. Continue to promote an awareness among the public and land managers of the importance of hedgerows and their associated features for wildlife, of the continuing loss of hedgerows, and of the need for management to maintain biodiversity (CCW, DANI, DoE(NI), EN, LAs, MAFF, SNH, SOAEFD, WOAD).	
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible <i>(Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	All SG members to promote positive management of hedgerows.	
Action/workplan undertaken? <i>(Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	<i>Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.</i>	
Output and timescale	Note on "Best Practice in Promoting Hedge Management and Conservation", to be issued by SG produced by EN. Sent to Biodiversity Secretariat for wider publicity Sept 99. SG members have produced wide range of publications, and continue to do so.	<i>Action by</i> SG
Constraints to action <i>(Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
Action complete or ongoing? <i>(Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	Ongoing	
Next steps	<i>Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.</i>	
Output and timescale	DETR/MAFF/NAW to complete review of Hedgerow Regs. Public consultations expected on Ministerial proposals arising out of review.	<i>Action by</i> DETR/ MAFF/ NAW