

Ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows

Full report outputted on the 30/07/2003 15:54:14

1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

	Amount:	Units:	Year:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	329000	<input type="text"/>	1998	Informed guess	Aggregate of country figures (below) Countryside Survey 2000 (62% of total stock, based on ADAS survey in 1999 which shows that 62% of hedges form part of a pre-1845 field system)
E	278000	<input type="text"/>	1998	Informed guess	Countryside Survey 2000 (figure for England and Wales and based on 62% of total stock. ADAS survey in 1999 showed that 62% of hedges form part of a pre-1845 field system. Figure is likely to be a minimum since no allowance has been made for species-rich hedges that are not ancient)

NI	44000		1998	Informed guess	NI Countryside Survey. 118000km is total stock. An estimated 33% are ancient and/or species rich according to the published HAP.
S	500		1998	Partial or sample survey	Estimate by Scottish Executive/Scottish Natural Heritage, based on results of a survey 'Establishment of a register of species-rich hedgerows in Scotland 1998-1999'
W	278000		1998	Informed guess	Countryside Survey 2000 (figure for England and Wales and based on 62% of total stock. ADAS survey in 1999 showed that 62% of hedges form part of a pre-1845 field system. Figure is likely to be a minimum since no allowance has been made for species-rich hedges that are not ancient)

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2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

	Trend:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	Stable	Partial or sample survey	Stock estimates from Countryside Survey 2000 (field survey in 1998) which is for stock only. Trend in quality/condition is unknown.
E	Stable	Partial or sample survey	Countryside Survey 2000 (field survey in 1998) which is for stock only. Trend in quality/condition is unknown.
NI	Declining (continuing/accelerating)	Partial or sample survey	NI Countryside Survey 2000 which is for stock only. Trend in quality/condition is unknown.
S	Stable	Partial or sample survey	Countryside Survey 2000 (field survey in 1998) which is for stock only. Trend in quality/condition is unknown.

W	Stable	Partial or sample survey	Countryside Survey 2000 (field survey in 1998) w hich is for stock only. Trend in quality/condition is unknow n.

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3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

Status of knowledge:	Know ledge insufficient and no suitable research programme in place.
Notes:	Some know ledge from Countryside Surveys but insufficient for t purposes of BAP reporting. Design of future countryside survey (likely to start soon) w ill need to focus more closely on ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow s, their condition and hedgerow trees. Promotion of local hedgerow surveys, based on a new ly published standard procedure, w ill complement and add detail to the proposed new national Countryside Surveys.

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4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: Halt the net loss of species-rich hedgerows through neglect and removal by the year 2000.

Target start date:

1995

Target end date:

2000

Target units:



	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Some progress (on schedule) ▼	190000			Under consideration ▼
E	Some progress (on schedule) ▼	138000			Under consideration ▼

NI	Unknown	41000			Under consideration
S	Some progress (on schedule)	13900			Under consideration
W	Some progress (on schedule)	20600			Under consideration

T2: Halt all loss of hedgerows which are both ancient and species-rich by 2005.

Target start date:

Target end date:

Target units:

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Some progress (on schedule)	19000			Under consideration
E	Some progress (on schedule)	13800			Under consideration
NI	Unknown	41000			Under consideration
S	Some progress (on schedule)	13900			Under consideration

W	Some progress (on schedule) ▼	20600			Under consideration ▼
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T3: Achieve favourable condition for 25% (c.47,500 km) of species-rich and ancient hedges by 2000.

Target start date: 1995

Target end date: 2000

Target units: ▼

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Some progress (on schedule) ▼	47500			No ▼
E	Some progress (on schedule) ▼				No ▼
NI	Unknown ▼				No ▼
S	Unknown ▼				No ▼
W	Some progress (on schedule) ▼				No ▼

T4: Achieve favourable condition for 50% (c.95,000 km) of species-rich and ancient hedges by 2005.

Target start date:	<input type="text" value="2000"/>
Target end date:	<input type="text" value="2005"/>
Target units:	<input type="text"/>

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text" value="Some progress (on schedule)"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Under consideration"/>
E	<input type="text" value="Some progress (on schedule)"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Under consideration"/>
NI	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Under consideration"/>
S	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Under consideration"/>
W	<input type="text" value="Some progress (on schedule)"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Under consideration"/>

T5: Maintain the overall national number of individual hedgerow trees (estimated by CS2000 to be 1.8 million in Great Britain in 1998), by maintaining the number of such trees within each county or district, through ensuring a balanced age structure.

Target start date:	1995
Target end date:	ongoing
Target units:	<input type="text"/>

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>	180000	<input type="text"/>	Partial or sample survey	Under consideration
E	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Under consideration
NI	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Under consideration
S	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Under consideration
W	<input type="text" value="Unknown"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Under consideration

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5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

2.1 Since 1945 there has been a drastic loss of hedgerows through removal and neglect throughout the UK, especially in eastern counties of England, which continues even now. Between 1984 and 1990, the net loss of hedgerow length in England was estimated as 21%, in Scotland 27% and in Wales 25%. This loss was the result of a combination of outright removal (1.7% per annum) and neglect (3.5% pa). In England and Wales at least the loss continued between 1990 and 1993, with neglect becoming increasingly important and removal less so. No comparable figures are available for Northern Ireland. Neglect (no cutting or laying) leading to hedgerows changing into lines of trees and the development of gaps. This reflects modern high labour costs and loss of traditional skills. Too frequent and badly timed cutting leading to poor habitat conditions, the development of gaps and probable species changes. Loss of hedgerow trees through senescence and felling, without encouraging replacements. Use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers right up to the bases of hedgerows leading to nutrient enrichment and a decline in species diversity. Increased stocking rates, particularly of sheep, leading to hedgerow damage and the need to fence fields. The presence of fences reduces the agricultural necessity for hedge maintenance and so hastens their decline. The modern practice of "ranching" (placing netting around several fields to form a grazing block) also contributes to the deterioration of internal hedges). Removal for agricultural and development purposes.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Rank:	Keyword:
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Intensive crop regimes
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Habitat loss / degradation - agriculture Loss of hedgerows

- Habitat loss / degradation - management practice | Neglect
- Pollution - land | Agricultural (nutrient enrichment)

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6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

Constraint 1:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Policy, legislation and designation Agriculture (incl. Common Agricultural Policy)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
Reform of CAP is needed to a) Remove the non-market incentives for intensive production; and b) provide resources for expanding agri-environment schemes. s results need to differentiate betw een ancient and/or species-rich hedgerow s and others.	

Able to resolve:

Constraint 2:

Constraint keyword:

Communication | Land managers / owners - lack of advice

Country:

 UK E NI S
 W

Solution:

Problem of poor communication and incentives leading to inappropriate management of some hedgerows.

Solution type:

Able to resolve:

Constraint 3:

Constraint keyword:

Research, survey and information | Monitoring surveys required

Country:

 UK E NI S
 W

Solution:

Countryside Survey results need to differentiate between ancient and/or species-rich hedgerows and others.

Solution type:

Able to resolve:



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7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete: **Organisation:**

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Agricultural Development and Advisory Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | British Association for Shooting and Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | British Trust for Conservation Volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Butterfly Conservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Centre for Ecology and Hydrology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Council for the Protection of Rural England |

- Country Landowners and Business Association
- Countryside Agency
- Countryside Council for Wales
- Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland
- English Nature
- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
- Forestry Commission
- Game Conservancy Trust
- Local Government Association
- National Assembly for Wales Agriculture Department
- National Farmers Union
- Planning Officers Society

<input type="checkbox"/>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scottish Executive
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scottish Natural Heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Suffolk Wildlife Trust

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8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, click here.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Organisation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Tree Council

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9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

Little or no contact with LBAPs.

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

Important

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

- Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)
- Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)
- Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)
- Reciprocal attendance at meetings
- Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

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10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:

Halting - possibly reversal in England and Wales - of net losses of hedgerow s by 1998.

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Funding and incentives | Agricultural schemes - delivering wildlife gains

Success 2:

Description:

Entry into force of the Hedgerow s Regulations 1997

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Policy, legislation and designation | Beneficial changes in UK legislation

Success 3:**Description:**

Expansion of agri-environmental schemes, incorporating hedgerow management incentives, across the UK.

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Funding and incentives | Agricultural schemes - beneficial changes to structure / payments

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Thankyou for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

Contact point:

Defra

email:

stephen.cane

Your name: Stephen Cane

Date: 08/01/2003
