

Case Study: Cotton Windfarm

Type: Planting and Mitigation Works



Cotton Wind farm in Cambridgeshire has 8 turbines that produce enough electricity to power approximately 16,000 homes and reduces CO2 emissions by 36,000 tons per year. In 2014 CDTS Ltd were successful in tendering for 2km of new hedging, the planting of 300 native tree and shrubs and some ecological mitigation works.



The hedging we planted not only marked the boundaries of the farm, but also act as corridors across the land for wildlife. To encourage this, we not only planted brand new stretches, but filled in the gaps between the older existing hedges throughout the site. We planted mixed native species such as Field Maple, Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Hazel, Guelder rose and Dogrose amongst others. The purpose of the

hedges is also to improve the overall site biodiversity by mixing various native species including flowering species to the benefit of pollinators and birds that rely on the winter food stock.



As part of the package of works we also undertook some other ecological mitigation work. Part of this package was clearing the scrub and the removal of overhanging tree growth from around two of the ponds on the farm. By doing this we let in more natural light and together with the planting of aquatic marginal plants including oxygenators directly to the pond this greatly improved the water quality and aides a more diverse ecosystem.



The cord wood and brash from the removed trees was then stacked to create habitat piles or “Hibernaculum’s” for insects, small animals and reptiles to use as refuges.