

# Trees for Farms



# What is a hedgerow?

A hedgerow is defined as ‘a row of shrubs or trees enclosing or separating fields’.

## Why are people concerned?

Hedgerows have been disappearing from the British countryside at an alarming rate through agricultural intensification since the Second World War. It is estimated that we have lost half of our hedgerows since then.

This loss has been identified as a factor in the decline of many plant and animal species associated with farmland.



# What animals live in hedgerows?

Nesting birds, hibernating hedgehogs, dormice, bats and other small mammals, as well as insects such as beetles and butterflies.

One study counted 2070 species in one 85 metre stretch of hedgerow, and this was thought to be an under-estimate.

Native trees, planted close together to form hedges, also provide a rich, supportive environment for many kinds of wildlife as well as connecting pockets of habitat which might otherwise become isolated and decline.



# What is the relationship between hedgerows and climate change?

In terms of the current climate crisis, we need trees to capture carbon and prevent the rapid warming of our planet.



# Who are Trees for Farms and what do they do?

Trees for Farms started in September 2019 on a kitchen table in Newnham!

It is a local initiative based in the Borough of Swale that aims to enable the local community to work with farms to plant new hedges.

We ask farmers to identify boundary fences that would benefit from the addition of hedging.



# What have TFF accomplished?

We started planting a couple of pilot projects in 2019/20, one in Faversham and one near Conyer, each 50m of hedgerow, so 500 plants altogether.

The first Covid lockdown, combined with one of the hottest, driest summers on record, lead to the loss of a number of saplings.

Learning from this, we prepared sites more carefully and used a better planting method for two larger projects in Autumn 2020.

Since then, we have planted trees on more farms and have carried out maintenance work to give them the best chances of survival.



An illustration on the left side of the page shows several hands of different colors (orange, red, green) holding and supporting large green leaves. The hands are positioned as if they are gently cradling or supporting the leaves, symbolizing care and growth.

# Who runs Trees for Farms and what do they do?

Trees for Farms is run by volunteers.

There is a small steering group that is involved with liaising with potential sites, applications for funding, marketing, fundraising, publicity, organising dig days and the early maintenance of sites.

The main hedgerow planting season runs from late November until late January, and we advertise for volunteer helpers to prepare sites and plant hedgerows as required. People of all ages are welcomed, and events are carefully stewarded to ensure the safety of our volunteers.

# Want to get involved?

If you would like to be involved please get in touch. You don't need specialist knowledge, you don't have to be able to dig: whatever your skills Trees for Farms will be glad of your help. Look out for information on *Dig Days* this autumn.

Contact us by:



[info@treesforfarms.co.uk](mailto:info@treesforfarms.co.uk)



[www.treesforfarms.co.uk](http://www.treesforfarms.co.uk)



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