

DEFRA HEDGEROW MANAGEMENT SURVEY 2009/10

FOLLOW-UP VISITS TO FARMERS

1 NAME

ADDRESS

2 Can you please confirm that you completed a questionnaire for the Defra postal survey in hedgerow management last autumn? Yes No

Section 1: Your Farm

3 How big is your farm? ha

4 Have there been any major changes in cropping patterns - i.e. +/-25% or more in area grown - in the past 10 years? Yes No

If yes, what [Tick appropriate boxes] ↑ INCREASE ↓ DECREASE

	↑	↓
Winter cereals		
Spring cereals		
Winter oilseed rape		
Spring oilseed rape		
Permanent/long-term grass		
Short-term grass		
Other(s) - 1 _____		

	↑	↓
Potatoes		
Field vegetables		
Sugar beet		
Soft fruit		
Top fruit		
Woodland		
Other(s) - 2 _____		

5 Have there been any changes in numbers or type of grazing livestock* in the past 10 years? Yes No

* Note: Ignore livestock that do not use fields

If yes, what has been the overall effect on numbers of different species?

	↑	↓
Sheep		
Dairy cows		
Beef cattle		
Horses		
Other (specify) _____		

If yes, what has been the overall effect on stocking density for different species?

	↑	↓
Sheep		
Dairy cows		
Beef cattle		
Horses		
Other (specify) _____		

Section 2: Hedgerow Management

- 6** Do you think that any of these changes (see Qs 4 & 5 above) will have had an impact on your hedgerows and their wildlife in any way? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

- 7** Have there been any major changes in the way that hedgerows on your farm have been managed during the past 10 years? Yes No

If yes, please use the statements below to describe the changes...

- 7a**
- 1 Hedges are now cut **shorter/tighter** than they were 1
 - 2 Hedges are now allowed to grow **taller/wider** than they were 2
 - 3 Neither of the above? 3
- 7b**
- 1 Hedges are now trimmed **more frequently** than they once were 1
 - 2 Hedges are now trimmed **less frequently** than they once were 2
 - 3 Neither of the above? 3
- 7c**
- 1 We have introduced **hedge laying/ coppicing** *[delete as appropriate]* as a regular part of our hedgerow management regime 1
 - 2 Hedge **laying/ coppicing** *[delete as appropriate]* was part of the farm's hedgerow management but is not any more 2
 - 3 Neither of the above? 3
- 7d**
- 1 We have **introduced flailing** as our standard method of hedge trimming 1
 - 2 We have completely/ largely *[delete as appropriate]* **moved away from the use of flails** for hedge trimming 2
 - 3 Neither of the above? 3
- 7e**
- 1 We have **removed** some large sections of hedgerow and now have a substantially **smaller total hedge length** than we had 10 years ago 1
 - 2 We have **planted** some large sections of hedgerow and now have a substantially **greater total hedge length** than we had 10 years ago 2
 - 3 We have **removed** some sections but **planted** other large sections with **no overall change** in total hedge length compared to 10 years ago 3
 - 4 None of the above? 4

7f Over the past 10 years, the main period of hedgerow trimming on the farm has changed:
If applicable, tick one box per column

From	May/Jun	<input type="checkbox"/>	To	May/Jun	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Jul/Aug	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jul/Aug	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sep/Oct	<input type="checkbox"/>		Sep/Oct	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nov/Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>		Nov/Dec	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Jan/Feb	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jan/Feb	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Mar/Apr	<input type="checkbox"/>		Mar/Apr	<input type="checkbox"/>
No change		<input type="checkbox"/>			

- 7g**
- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| 1 During the past 10 years we have felled large numbers* of hedgerow trees | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1 |
| 2 During the past 10 years we have established large numbers* of hedgerow trees | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2 |
| 3 No significant change in overall numbers of hedgerow trees | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3 |
- * Assume "large numbers" to mean approx. 20 trees per 100 ha

7h Any other comments? Explore reasons for major changes.

8 Do you think that any of these changes (see Q7 above) will have had an impact on your hedgerows and their wildlife in any way? Yes No

8a Please explain:

9 What would you say are the main influences on you, which determine how you manage your hedgerows? [Allow farmer to answer without further prompting]

10 How important are the following factors in determining the way in which you manage your hedgerows?

	Very	Less	Not at all	Comments
10a Labour availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10b Grants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10c Tradition - on <u>this farm</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10d Tradition - in <u>this area</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10e Landscape benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>Outside influences:</u>				
10f - farm foreman/workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10g - hedgerow contractors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10h - other farmers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10i - family/friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>"Farming considerations":</u>				
10j - soil erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10k - need for stock-proof barriers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10l - timing to fit in with other work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10m - problems caused by trimmings (e.g. to lambs' feet, tractor tyres)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Other comments/ general remarks:

11 If you do not currently follow 'good practice guidelines' for hedgerow management [*explain what these are - see below**] what, if any, would be your main objections to making the necessary changes to your current practices?

[For simplicity, assume that 'good practice' means (1) trimming most hedges in late winter - Jan/Feb; (2) not cutting both sides of every hedge annually; and (3) not flailing most hedges to a height of less than 1.5 m]

[Allow farmer to answer without further prompting]

12 In particular, what problems do you think that less frequent hedge trimming might present (if any)? *[Allow farmer to answer without further prompting]*

13 Do you think that annual hedge trimming is generally good or bad...

13a For the hedge? Good Bad Neither

13b For hedgerow wildlife? Good Bad Neither

Any other comments?

14 To what extent is farm tidiness a factor influencing decisions of frequency of hedge trimming? (i.e. do you trim annually so that the farm looks tidy?)

Very important Not important
Quite important

14a Is this more of a factor on some parts of the farm than on others? Yes No

Please explain:

15 If you don't currently trim your hedgerows in mid-late winter (i.e. Jan/Feb or up until early March in N England) would doing it in this period present serious difficulties? Yes No

Please explain:

16 Are all hedges on your farm cut in any one year even if not trimmed annually? [i.e. answer "no" if hedges are trimmed in rotation] Yes No

17 Do you trim all hedges to the same height, or do you grow some taller than others?

All the same

Some taller

If not all hedges are cut to the same height, what is the reason for this?

[Tick boxes that apply or circle letter(s)]

• Farm boundary hedges left taller/ not trimmed

• Some hedges grown taller for conservation/landscape reasons

These hedges are mainly along

a

North-South field boundaries

b

Tracks and roadsides

c

Both

Not applicable

• Some hedges are allowed to grow tall for subsequent laying

• Other reason(s) (Please state):

18 What shape (or shapes) do you cut most of your hedges to?

18a ...and why?

19 Do you manage any roadside hedges? Yes No

19a If "yes", are they managed differently? Yes No

...and if "yes", how are they managed?

20 Has any aspect of your hedgerow management ever brought an adverse reaction from...

[Tick any that apply]

Other farmers?

Official body (e.g. LA, Defra)?

Member of public?

Environmental group

If so, **please explain** e.g. when, how and why was management criticised?

21 In your view, what else could be done to encourage farmers to follow good practice guidelines?

[Allow farmer to answer without further prompting]

21a Discuss the following options for hedgerow protection/ conservation and seek the farmer's general reaction (*see notes below*) :

1 *Strongly in favour* 2 *Neither for or against* 3 *Strongly against*

- 1 Hedgerow protection legislation (e.g. Hedgerow Regs., 1997)
- 2 Cross-compliance (e.g. through Single Payment Scheme)
- 3 "Enhanced" management through agri-environment schemes
- 4 Hedgerow management grants
- 5 Free hedgerow management advice

	1	2	3

Notes:

a) Cross-compliance - Single Payment Scheme. It is not permitted to cultivate or apply fertilisers or pesticides to land within 2 metres of the centre of a hedgerow (few exceptions) and you must take all reasonable steps to maintain a green cover on this land (GAEC 14). It is not permitted to remove all or part of any hedge without permission from the local authority or to trim hedges between 1st March and 31st July (except if a safety hazard beside roads) (GAEC 15).

b) Agri-environment schemes. For example, trimming every 2 or 3 years instead of annually, under ELS.

21b What do you need to help you improve the management of your hedgerows?

22 If you have previously received grants for hedgerow management where did they come from?
e.g. MAFF/Defra, local authority, National Park authority, etc

N/A

23 If you have planted new hedges in the last 10 years were these...

	All	Most	Some	None
23a Single species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23b Native species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

24 If you have received formal advice on hedgerow management from outside agencies but did not implement that advice, please explain why.

25 In your opinion, how important are the hedgerows on your farm to wildlife?

Very important	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quite important	<input type="checkbox"/>
Of some value	<input type="checkbox"/>
Of no value	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

26 Can you name any particular plants or animals [*species or species groups*] for which hedgerows are an important habitat on your farm? Yes No

27 Approximately how much do you pay for hedge trimming?

[Estimate of farm costs if farmer does trimming himself]

- Total cost per year - average over past three years?
- Average cost per 100 metres?
- Average cost per hour?

	Est.	Actual
£	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
£	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
£	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

28 What impacts would the following changes have on the cost of hedgerow management?
And why do you reach these conclusions?

• Less frequent trimming?

--

• Winter trimming?

--

Further comments on costs of hedgerow management...

--

29 Do you own machinery suitable for hedge trimming?

Yes No

If yes, what type of machinery do you have?

	Own	Rent
Flail		
Circular saw		
Finger-bar trimmer		
Other (specify)		

29a In your opinion, what are the main advantages/disadvantages of the various options?
[Please get both "yes" and "no" respondents to answer this part]

	Advantages	
	Practicality	Cost
Flail		
Rotary saw/ shaping saw		
Finger-bar cutter		
Other (specify)		

	Disadvantages	
	Practicality	Cost
Flail		
Rotary saw/ shaping saw		
Finger-bar cutter		
Other (specify)		

Comments on machinery options...

--

30

Please add any other general comments below

Surveyor

Signature

Date