

BVM and RPA Ltd

HEDGE MANAGEMENT SURVEY 2009

Section 1: Your Farm - Cropping, stocking, field size and soil type

All of your answers in this section are important, as they may affect the way that you manage your hedges.

- 1 **County** - Please give the county in which your farm is located.
- 2 **Farm size** - What is the total area of your farm? ha How many fields does your farm have?
- 3 **Cropping** - Please give the area grown for each of these crops. Please tick if any crop, or part crop, is organically grown.
- | | Ha | Organic | | Ha | Organic | | Ha | Organic |
|--------------------------------|---|---|------------------|---|---|----------------------------|---|---|
| Combinable crops - winter sown | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | Short leys | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | Soft/top fruit | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> |
| - spring sown | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | Field vegetables | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | Woodland/ farm forestry | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> |
| Permanent grass/long leys | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | Other arable | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="text"/> | | | |
- 4 **Stocking** - Please tick if any of the following are main or important enterprises on your farm.
- Dairy Beef Sheep Pigs Poultry Horses/ponies Other livestock
- 5 **Field size** - Please give the approximate size of your fields.
- Largest ha Smallest ha
- 6 **Soil type** - Please tick the main soil type on your farm.
- Clay Sand Silt Peat Loam Chalk

Section 2: Your Hedges - Description

- 7 What proportion of your field boundaries are hedges?
- <25% 25-49% 50-74% 75-100%
- 8 Please give the approximate percentage of your hedges in the following height ranges.
(Measured from base of main woody stems to uppermost shoots, even if some plants grow from side of a bank).
If you trim your hedges give the average height after trimming. **These should add up to 100%.**
- <1.0 m 1.0-1.4 m 1.5-2.4 m 2.5-3.9 m 4.0-10.0 m >10.0 m
- 9 Please give the approximate percentage of your hedges in the following width ranges.
If you trim your hedges give the average width after trimming. **These should add up to 100%.**
- Less than 1.0 m wide 1.0-1.4 m 1.5-2.5 m 2.5-4.0 m > 4.0 m
- 10 Please give the approximate percentage of your hedges in the following categories. **These should add up to 100%.**
- Mainly hawthorn Mainly blackthorn Mainly hazel Mainly beech Other species Mixed
- 11 Please estimate the average percentage of gaps in your hedges. <5% 5-10% >10%
Gaps include lengths of hedges where there are only non-woody species, such as grasses, brambles, thistles, bracken and willowherbs. Also include gaps that have been fenced. Do not include gateways.
- 12 Which of the following species are also commonly found in your hedges? **Tick as many as occur.**
- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| Hedge bindweed | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Dogwood | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Field maple | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Honeysuckle | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Wild privet | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> |
| Old man's beard/ Clematis | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Gorse | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Elm | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Elder | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Bramble | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> |
| Ash | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Oak | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Wild rose | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Sycamore | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> | Holly | <input style="width: 20px; height: 15px;" type="checkbox"/> |
- 13 Which of the following descriptions best describes the hedge bottoms on your farm? **Please choose one only.**
- Most are dominated by arable weeds such as cleavers or sterile brome
- Most are dominated by coarse grasses and grassland weeds such as nettles or thistles
- Most are dominated by grasses, with wildflowers

Section 3: Hedge Management - What do you do?

- 14 How often do you trim your hedges? Please give the percentage in each category. **These should add up to 100%.**
- Yearly 2-yearly 3-yearly 4-6 years 7-12 years Not trimmed
- If your hedges are not trimmed do not complete questions 13 to 19. Please go to Question 20.**

15 Has the **frequency** of hedge trimming on your farm changed in the past five years **due to** the requirements of an agri-environment scheme (e.g. hedge management options in ELS, HLS, Tir Gofal)?

Yes No **If yes, how has it changed?** Yearly to 2-yearly Yearly to 3-yearly

Other changes (please specify)

16 During which months do you usually trim your hedges? **Please tick one box in each row.**

| | May-Jun | Jul-Aug | Sep-Oct | Nov-Dec | Jan-Feb | Mar-Apr |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hedges adjacent to arable fields | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hedges adjacent to grass fields | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hedges adjacent to public roads | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hedges adjacent to farm tracks | <input type="checkbox"/> |

17 Has the **timing** of hedge trimming on your farm changed in the past five years **due to** the requirements of an agri-environment scheme (e.g. hedge management options in ELS, HLS or Tir Gofal)?

No Yes

If yes, how has it changed?

Later trimming of arable hedges
 Later trimming of grassland hedges
 Later trimming of trackside hedges

Other changes (please specify)

18 **Hedge shape:** What proportion of your hedges are rectangular or box-shaped? % **These should add up to 100%.**
 What proportion of your hedges are A-shaped (pointed or rounded) or chamfered? %

How do you usually trim your rectangular or box-shaped hedges (if applicable)?

Top: Always cut top Cut top alternate times Never cut top

Sides: Always cut both sides Cut sides alternately

How do you usually trim your A-shaped or chamfered hedges (if applicable)?

Always cut both sides
 Cut sides alternately

19 What type of **equipment** is usually used to trim your hedges?

Reciprocating, finger-bar cutter

Flail cutter

Other (please specify)

Rotary saw/ shaping saw

Don't know

20 *Who decides when to trim?*

Farmer/Manager

Farm foreman

Farm staff

Contractor

Neighbouring farmer

Who does the trimming?

Farmer/Manager

Farm foreman

Farm staff

Contractor

Neighbouring farmer

If a contractor or neighbour trims your hedges please answer Question 21, if not go to Question 22.

21 How close to your preferred target date for trimming does your contractor/neighbour usually carry out the work?

8 weeks before

4 weeks before

2 weeks before

Within 1 week

2 weeks after

4 weeks after

8 weeks after

22 What is the typical width left uncultivated around your arable fields - between the crop and the base* of the hedge?

metres

Not applicable (e.g. no arable fields)

* Bottom of side of hedge, not the mid-line.

23 Please indicate how often you manage your hedges in the ways listed below.

| | Always | Sometimes | Seldom | Never |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| I control weeds in hedge bottoms by spraying | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I cut the vegetation at the base of the hedge | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I fence off hedges to exclude livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I prevent sprays and fertilisers contacting hedges | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

24 Have any of these aspects of your hedge management (Q23) changed in the past five years because of the requirements of an agri-environment scheme (e.g. hedge management or field margin options in ELS or HLS)?

Yes No

If yes, how has it changed?

Please tick all that apply.

Stopped spraying weeds in hedge bottoms

Stopped cutting vegetation at base of hedges

...or because of

Fenced off some/ more hedges to exclude livestock

cross-compliance rules?

Established grass buffer strips beside hedges in arable fields

Yes No

Other changes (please specify)

Section 4: Conservation

25 Is all or part of your farm managed according to an agri-environment scheme agreement?

Yes No

If yes, which scheme(s)? Please tick all that apply.

Environment Scheme: ELS Countryside Stewardship Other (please specify)
 HLS Environmental Stewardship (ESA)
 OELS Tir Cynnal Tir Gofal

Do you receive any grants/ subsidies/ payments for hedge management?

Yes No

If yes, what is the source of these payments? Please tick all that apply.

Environment Scheme: ELS Countryside Stewardship Local authority grant/ subsidy
 HLS Environmental Stewardship (ESA) Other (please specify)
 OELS Tir Gofal (as additional option)

26 Within the last five years have you undertaken any of the following, either with or without grant/ subsidy/ payment?

Please tick all that apply.

| | No | Yes with payment | Yes without payment | | No | Yes with payment | Yes without payment |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Planting to fill gaps in hedges | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hedge coppicing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hedge-bank restoration | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Hedge laying | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fencing to exclude livestock from hedges | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | New hedge planting | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Conservation operations excluding hedges | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tree planting in hedges | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

27 How likely are you to carry out similar hedge conservation operations in the future?

| | Very likely | Likely | Unlikely | Definitely not |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Under current conditions and arrangements | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If more grant aid was available | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If skilled labour was more readily available | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

28 How often, ideally, should hedges be trimmed to maximise their value to wildlife?

Yearly 2 yearly 3 yearly 4-6 years Not trimmed **Tick one box only.**

29 At what time of year, ideally, should hedges be trimmed to maximise their value to wildlife?

May-Jun Jul-Aug Sep-Oct Nov-Dec Jan-Feb Mar-Apr **Tick one box only.**

Section 5: Sources of advice and training

30 Which of the following have you used for advice/training on hedge management?

No advice used **Go to Question 32**

| | Publication | Visit received | Training | Website | Are you a member of this organisation? |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| FWAG | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ADAS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Lantra | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local authority | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local college | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| National Park Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural England/ Defra | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CCW/ Welsh Assembly | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| England CSF Delivery Initiative | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| RSPB | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wildlife Trust | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Agronomist/ land agent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please tick all that apply.

Name of other org.

Did you, or do you intend to, apply the advice/training received? Yes, fully Yes, in part No

31 If you did not (or don't intend to) **fully implement** the advice/training received please indicate why.

Please tick as many as apply.

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Too expensive to implement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Advice was not environmentally sound | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Impractical to implement | <input type="checkbox"/> | Appearance of the farm would have been adversely affected | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advice contradicted good agricultural practice | <input type="checkbox"/> | The skilled labour required was not available | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Section 6: Hedge Management - What influences you?

32 How important are the following factors in determining the way that you manage your hedges?
(Apart from any agri-environment agreement you may have)

| | <i>Very important</i> | <i>Important</i> | <i>Some importance</i> | <i>Not important</i> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Controlling pests | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Controlling weeds | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reducing shading of crops | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Providing shelter for livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Providing a stock-proof boundary | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Requirements of highways authority or parish council | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Keeping the farm tidy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintaining/improving the appearance of the local landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintaining/improving habitats for gamebirds | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintaining/improving habitats for wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Availability of labour | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advice from agricultural consultant | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advice from conservation advisor or environmental groups | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost of hedge-laying/ coppicing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost of trimming and maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

33 In your view, how much of a problem are the following in trimming hedges at two-yearly or longer intervals?

| | <i>Major problem</i> | <i>Moderate problem</i> | <i>Minor problem</i> | <i>No problem</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Difficulty in dealing with trimmings | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Inability of machinery to cope | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased 'wear and tear' to machinery | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Longer time required to trim hedges | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Deterioration of hedge structure e.g. thinning at bottom | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fast growing species e.g. ash | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

34 How much of a problem are the following to late winter hedge trimming on your farm?

| | <i>Major problem</i> | <i>Moderate problem</i> | <i>Minor problem</i> | <i>No problem</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Limited availability of labour | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Access limited by growing crops | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Access limited by soil conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

35 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

| | <i>Strongly agree</i> | <i>Agree</i> | <i>Neither</i> | <i>Disagree</i> | <i>Strongly disagree</i> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Farmers know best how to manage their hedges | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Good hedges are a valuable asset on a farm | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hedges are an obstacle to efficient farming | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| I need better information to improve my hedge management | <input type="checkbox"/> |

36 Do you or your farm staff carry out hedge cutting for other farmers?

Yes No

37 Follow up survey: Are you willing to allow one of our consultants to contact you regarding a possible follow-up interview and hedge survey on your farm?

Yes No

If yes, please provide your contact details:

| |
|------------|
| Name: |
| Address: |
| Post code: |
| Telephone: |

Thank you for helping us with our survey. Please return your completed questionnaire in the envelope provided to:
Nigel Tuffnell, Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd, Farthing Green House, 1 Beccles Road, Loddon, Norfolk, NR14 6LT.