



Working together for the UK's hedgerows

The UK Habitat Action Plan for Hedgerows - overview of recent activity at national level

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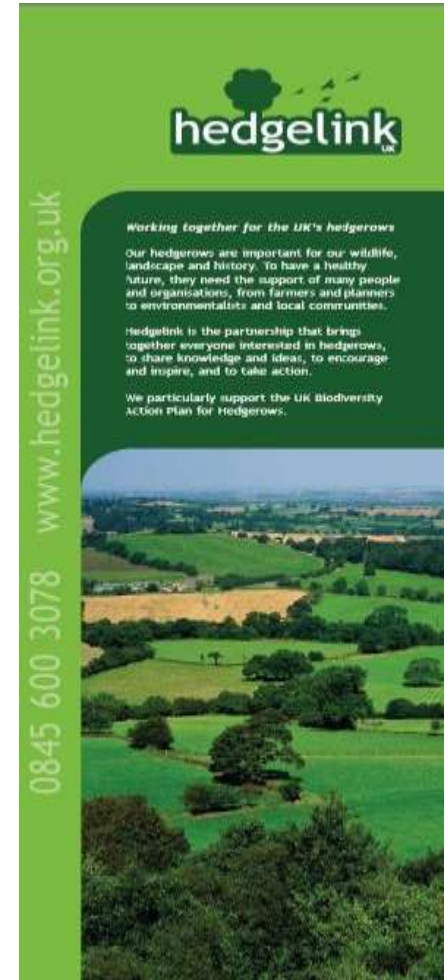
Chairman, Hedgeline

In brief

- New name for national partnership is “Hedgelink””
- New HAP name is simply “Hedgerows
- All hedgerows with >80% cover of native trees and shrubs
- In 2007 targets substantially revised - more below
- Favourable condition now defined - 6 attributes
- Increased responsibility for associated priority BAP species

Hedgeline

- New identity for the HAP group and its activities
- Website www.hedgeline.org.uk
- Improved communication and access to information and resources
- Feedback and content suggestions welcome



BAP structure

- Hedgerow HAP Steering Group - Hedgelinek - will continue, and as UK body
- Defra remains lead partner
- HAP group represented on country farmland biodiversity groups
- Country groups will send delegates to the UK Lowland Farmland Habitat Group. Hedgelinek will work alongside UK Habitat Group.

Extent targets

1. Maintain net extent of hedgerows
8. Increase net length of hedgerows by 800km pa between 2005 and 2010

- Agri-environment schemes critical
- High profile among policy makers important - key messages for policy makers and shapers available on website
- Environmental Stewardship hedgerows options deliver more environmental services than any other habitat (21)

Hedgerow tree targets

2. Maintain number of isolated hedgerow trees

7. Increase number of young hedgerow trees to 40,000 by 2010 and 80,000 by 2015

- Research on hedgerow tree population dynamics and associated biodiversity
- Oxford University research on hedgerow trees and moths
- Need increased focus in this area - Tree Council lead

Woody species target

3. Ensure hedgerows remain as rich in native woody species
 - Growing interest in hedgerows as source of woodfuel - please let us have any information on economics and practicalities

Condition target

4. Achieve favourable condition of 35% of hedgerows by 2010 and 50% by 2015

- Cross compliance helpful
- Agri-environment schemes critical
- Easy access to good advice essential

Cutting target

5. Reduce proportion of land managers who trim hedges annually to 60% by 2010

- Target achieved - 42% trim annually now (2006 figures)
- Research underway on benefits of 2 & 3 year cutting cycles, and raising cutting height each year
- Farmer attitudes research also underway

Ground flora target

6. Halt further decline in condition of herbaceous hedgerow flora

- Cross compliance should be helping in England and Wales
- Loss of set-aside may be an issue
- Research into reasons for decline, and into best ways of restoration

Monitoring

Key sources of information are:

- Countryside Survey
- Local hedgerow surveys - new national database under development

In conclusion, our focus is on:

1. Enhancing agri-environment schemes
2. Improving advice for farmers and advisers
3. Influencing policy
4. Better communication with LBAPs and others
5. Commissioning research in key areas
6. Encouraging more local hedgerow surveys
7. Reporting progress on targets

BASH March 2007

Key issues identified and action taken (1)

Issue 1: Too little funding for hedgerow planting

Action: In Wales, new AES (Glastir) has hedge planting options in entry and higher tiers. Funding remains limited in England.

Issue 2: Single source of hedgerow information required

Action: Hedgelinek website established

Issue 3: Annual meetings between Steering Group and LBAPs

Action: Ran workshops at LBAP conferences in 2007 & 2008; BASH2.

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Key issues identified and action taken (2)

Issue 4: More guidance on implementing national targets at local level

Action: New advice products. In Wales, technical guide of delivering targets produced.

Issue 5: More coordination at regional level

Action: *Are there any good regional models?*

Issue 6: More recognition of local character and management styles

Action: AES increasingly support local character, but more needed

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Key issues identified and action taken (3)

Issue 7: Urban hedges not well protected - face different pressures than rural ones

Action: CPRE survey of local authorities - views please on extending protection to cover urban hedges and on impact of development

Issue 8: Surveys - more training needed, and better database

Action: Training available; database being improved - web-based, launch Feb 09

Today

We hope today

- to learn whether 2007 issues are still relevant
- to receive feedback on our progress so far
- to hear about current local issues and concerns