

## Hedgerows across England <sup>(1)</sup>

### ■ Regional profile

①Climate: Despite the high latitude, the Northern Atlantic current gives a mild, temperate climate throughout the country. In winter, the west coast is comparatively warmer than the east; in summer this pattern reverses, the east becoming warmer. Seasonal changes are small on average.

Annual Average Temperature: 10.0°C

Annual Rainfall: 750.6mm

②Area: 243,000km<sup>2</sup>

③Population: (2008) 61.02 Million

④Land-use<sup>(2)</sup>(2005)Agricultural Land 169,600km<sup>2</sup>(70.1%)  
[Farmland 57,800 km<sup>2</sup> (23.9 % ) ,Pasture 111,800 km<sup>2</sup> (46.2%) ], Forest 28,500 km<sup>2</sup> (11.8%) ,  
Others 44,900 km<sup>2</sup> (18.1%)



**Fig. 1 United Kingdom**



**Photo 1 The varied pattern of hedgerows in the Black Mountains, South Wales**

Defra (2007) .Hedgerow Survey Handbook, p36.<sup>(1)</sup>

### ■ Hedgerows across the country

Historically, with over 50% of land devoted to agriculture, protecting its biodiversity has been a subject of debate from early on in the EU's policy on land

development. England's 2005 statistics show agricultural land, including pasture, to comprise 70.1% of the country. The hedgerows marking boundaries in this agricultural land make a large contribution to its biodiversity.

The National survey handbook defines a hedgerow as a hedge of length over 20m and width 5m or less. Surveys to date estimate the total length of hedgerows in England at 450,000 km. Today, hedgerows are noted as the most important habitat for plants and animals in woodland and agricultural land. Surveys show that hedgerows are home to 600 species of plants, 1500 species of insects, 65 species of birds and 20 types of mammals (England biodiversity conservation plan, 1994). Since the end of the War in 1945, hedgerows have been on the decline, in particular during the late 1980s when there was a 21 – 27% reduction everywhere. In 2006, we believe that only some 22% of the UK's hedgerows are in a favorable state.

LIFE is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. For the United Kingdom, out of a total 34 projects between 1992 (beginning of LIFE I) and 2002, 13 had an agri-environmental aspect<sup>(3)</sup>.



**Photo 2 Aerial Photographs about Extent of Hedgerow**

Hedgerow Survey Handbook, p32<sup>(1)</sup>

## ■ Hedgerow conservation and repair

In March 2001, the European Commission adopted the Agricultural Biodiversity Action Plan. To protect biodiversity and ensure sustainable use, the EU began to officially clarify key points of the present Common Agriculture Policy in 2002. Hedgerows were identified by the EU as a priority matter.

1. Supporting the expansion of agricultural production;
2. Development of healthy agricultural activity with an emphasis on biodiversity;
3. Sustainable management of natural resources, including linear objects (hedges, wildlife corridors).

CAP reforms in 2003 fortified measures to protect biodiversity. The Bird and Habitat directives have thus been adopted, including stipulations to preserve habitats<sup>(4)</sup>. In England today, local bodies and NGOs are leading efforts on hedgerow conservation and repair.

**Table 1 The Reconciliation between Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Environmental Policy (Natura2000) in United Kingdom**

Years	Main Items
1973	UK joined the EC
1940—80	Hedgerow reduced significantly
1979	EU Birds Directive
1992	EU Habitats Directive
1994	Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan was published
1997	The Hedgerows Regulations CAP High Natural Value Farmland(HNV)
1998	Consultation Paper: Sustainable Development: Opportunities for Change Making Biodiversity Happen
1999	EU CAP Agri-environmental measures of the rural development Regulation
2002	EU began to officially clarify key points of the present Common Agriculture Policy in 2002. Hedgerows were identified by the EU as a priority matter.
2003	CAP reforms fortified measures to protect biodiversity.

## ■ References

- (1) Defra (2007) .Hedgerow Survey Handbook, p36. <http://www.defra.gov.uk>
- (2) The data was limmited to apparent land use.
- (3) EC, LIFE Focus / LIFE and agri-environment supporting Natura 2000 – Experience from the LIFE programme ,  
(2003),[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/agrienvironment\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/agrienvironment_en.pdf)
- (4)The biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)