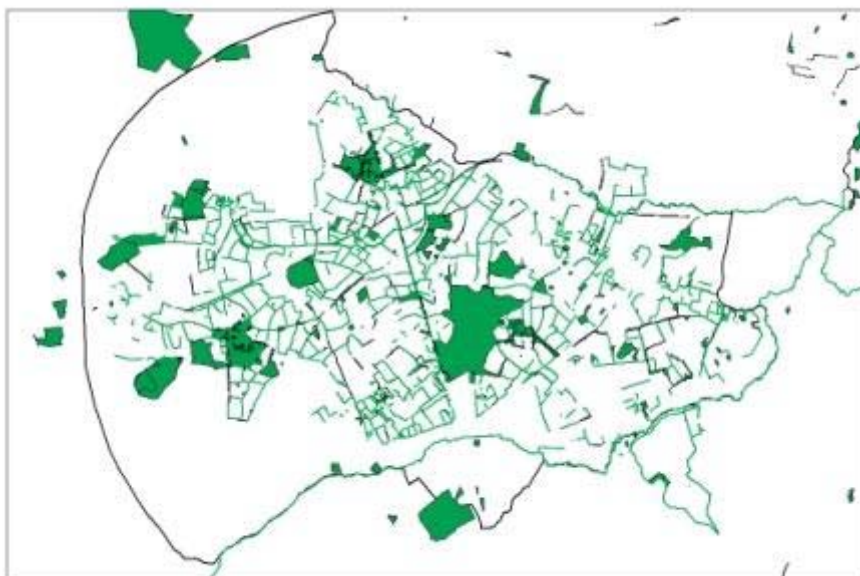


West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Hedgerow Survey

Information provided in this report will be used to showcase your project on the Biodiversity Partnership web pages. Please expand boxes as needed or use a separate sheet.



Project title:

The West
Cambridgeshire
Hundreds Project: Hedgerow Survey Phase 2

Date of Project report submission: 28th January 2009

Date of Application: May 2008

Sites/Location (if applicable):

West Cambridgeshire Hundreds project area

Project Objectives

- Provide a baseline of information about hedgerows Project area
- Enable identification of the hedgerows of particular importance to local wildlife and landscape
- Promote appropriate management action to restore as many hedgerows as possible to favourable condition
- Inform landscape-scale management of the area
- Engage local communities and farmers

Contact:

Name: Siân Williams
Organisation: The Wildlife Trust BCNP
Telephone: 01954 713509
Email: sian.williams@wildlifebcnp.org

Please answer the following questions about your project:

If any aren't applicable insert N/A.

For Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) please see:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside/natureconservation/action/partnership/baps/>

* If your project involved habitat work, how much habitat area in terms of BAP habitat has been created/restored (please cross out accordingly)?
N/A
Which habitat(s)?
N/A

* Which BAP species have benefited (or other species)?

We hope that any species associated with hedgerows will benefit as a result of informing landowners of the value of well-managed hedgerows for wildlife.

* Did the project contribute to other Biodiversity action plan targets and actions? Which ones and how?

This project has contributed to the following targets and actions in the local Hedgerow Habitat action plan:

Promote the importance of hedgerows to wildlife to landowners, policy makers and the general public.

At the beginning of the project, landowners were contacted to arrange surveys and discuss the project. They were given information on the importance of hedgerows to wildlife and their role in providing corridors between the fragmented ancient woodlands in the area.

Once the surveys were complete each landowner received maps of the hedges on their farm and a summary report. The reports included an assessment of the value of the hedges for wildlife. Areas that were particularly valuable for wildlife were highlighted, as were any areas where management could be improved.

An article about the project, with results of the hedgerow survey, will appear in the summer issue of the Wildlife Trust's magazine, Wildlife Action.

A newsletter is being produced to go out to the West Cambridgeshire Hundreds Partnership and all the landowners involved in the surveys which will also feature an article about the project.

Encourage hedgerow creation and management as part of "living landscape" projects aiming to create a series of woodland habitat networks throughout the county.

The hedgerow survey reports have identified noteworthy areas where hedgerow enhancement or creation would be of particular benefit.

Landowners have had the opportunity to speak to representatives from the Wildlife Trust and from FWAG to receive advice on hedgerow management.

One new landowner has used data from the hedgerow survey in an application for HLS, and incorporated hedgerow enhancements in this application. Many of the landowners in the project area are already in ELS schemes, and the surveys have identified possible improvements that can be made to management options when these schemes are renewed. Contacts with landowners will be maintained with this in mind.

The following target from the previous version of Hedgerows HAP has also been met:

Collate all information on important hedgerows in the county filling in the gaps through a series of targeted surveys.

The project completed a detailed survey of all the hedges on 14 farms, mapping 111km of hedgerow, as well as a significant area of treebelts and woodlands across approximately 2800 ha of land. An overall map of the area was created to identify key linkages and gaps. See attached photos for details.

* Did the project generate ecological data? Yes

Has the data been submitted to the Biological Records Centre?
Yes

If no please state the reason why data has not been submitted.
N/A

* How many volunteers have been involved in the work? 4

* How many volunteer hours have gone into the project?

25 hours surveying: Volunteers accompanied the surveyors on several occasions, to gain experience in survey techniques and hedgerow plant identification.

This is in addition to approximately 15 days of volunteer time spent producing maps, entering data, and producing reports for landowners.

* Any other information you would like to tell us about?
N/A

Please provide a summary report of your project:

What worked well, was/were your main successes?

As the West Cambridgeshire Hundreds project partnership is landowner-led, initial contact with the landowners involved in this survey was often from their neighbours, and this proved an effective way to get new landowners involved in the project.

FWAG are also members of the partnership and were the initial point of contact for some of the landowners. Several farms had visits from a staff member from FWAG to discuss ELS, HLS and/or general management options. Combining information from these visits with the results of the Wildlife Trust hedgerow surveys gave landowners a more comprehensive package of information. A survey report which highlights areas for improvement or changes in management has more meaning when it is accompanied by relevant information on currently available management options and advice on how to put these into practice.

What was difficult/challenging? What lessons have you learnt that could be shared with other projects, can be learnt for future projects?

When surveying farmland in spring, it can take longer than you expect because the margins are often overgrown and difficult to walk through. Spreading out surveys is a good idea. That way some can be done later in the

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Biodiversity Partnership Grant

year when margins have been cut or crops have been harvested, and walking is easier.

For the first few surveys, we used a printed form to record details for each hedge. This became complicated as using a separate form for each hedge can involve a lot of paper. The easiest way to survey is to print out several large maps and write notes directly on the maps. Bring along a laminated list of the key features to note down for each hedgerow (i.e. what the headings would have been on the record form), so that information isn't missed.

Are you happy to share this information with other projects?

Please check with the Wildlife Trust before sharing information, as we need to ensure no landowner-specific information is shared without their permission.

Thank you!

Please email this form back to Fabiola Blum,
Fabiola.Blum@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or post it to
Biodiversity Partnership,
ET1001, Castle Court, Castle Hill, Cambridge, CB3 0AP