

Delivering agroforestry in the UK

July 2018



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Trees on farms – the PUR Project

Funded by Accor Hotels plant for the planet
programme

Since 2014
planted
80,231
trees
across 53
farms



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All types of agroforestry:
Shelter belts, hedges and in field trees
Alley cropping; fruit, nuts, timber
Tree fodder
Riparian for resource protection



Tim Downes – tree fodder for dairy cows

72 fodder trees; small leaved
lime, elm, hornbeam and
sycamore

70 crack and white willow

Challenges

Protection from cows
Resources to monitor

Benefits

Trace elements
Protein efficiency
Anti-parasitic
Anti-inflammatory



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Paul and Nic Renison – shelter on upland sheep farm

The Challenge

Exposed farm

Lack of shelter

Impact on lamb survival &
FCE

Impact on grass growth

The Solution

Add shelter via

1100 m new hedgerow

9.9 ha of tree belts/small
copses

In field tree cages

Introduced mob grazing

Farmer Nic Renison “don’t dither plant trees -at first I was worried about the loss of grazing land from the double fenced hedges but even within the 1st season I was convinced of their value”



Jonathan Francis – resource protection & shelter for beef & sheep

The Challenges

Lack of field shelter
Water logged fields
Bank erosion

The Solution

Three 16-18 m shelter belts
One 6 m wide belt
Buffer strip along stream



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“Apart from losing a bit of ground, I can’t see a downside to planting the trees with all the benefits it will bring in terms of land management and stock performance.” Jonathan Francis, Welsh sheep and beef farmer



David Brass – woodland eggs a success story

Proven that tree cover:
Enhances welfare
Improves productivity
Developed premium
product
Delivers environmental
benefits

Challenges:

Tree Management
Ammonia emissions
Market Saturation

“Why should tree planting be a priority? Because if you have 64,000 birds it is going to make you £20,000 a year more money. That’s harsh but not everyone is altruistic. All of a sudden it is a sensible thing to do.” David Brass, CEO The Lakes Free Range Egg Company



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Influencing policy & politicians

Farmer consultations & the
command paper

Farmers day in
Parliament

Launch of
agroforestry policy
briefing

Farmers hosting MP &
DEFRA visits



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Role of agroforestry in new ELMs

Hedges for targeted species

Action: Plant new hedges and thicken and maintain existing hedges to improve their biodiversity value, including planting trees for structure.

Goods delivered:

Public: Improved biodiversity, pollination services and landscape aesthetics.

Issue: Need to increase width of existing hedge from standard 2m width, by changing existing management in both timing of operations and type of maintenance (biennial flail to 15-year rotational laying) and add additional trees.

Support needed: Long term management payments supported by advice, capital payments for trees and tree protection/fencing .

Role of agroforestry in new ELMs

Hedges and shelterbelts for livestock shelter

Action: Plant new shelterbelts to support livestock wellbeing and performance.

Goods delivered:

Public: Enhanced biodiversity, pollination services, water management, landscape character, animal welfare;

Private: Improved productivity and wellbeing of stock.

Issue: Advice needed on siting of shelterbelt, planting and long term management and capital support.

Support needed: Capital payments for trees and tree protection, initial advice on siting and planting partially paid through scheme, longer term advice on management provided through farmer network/independent advisers.



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Role of agroforestry in new ELMs

Agroforestry

Action: Plant rows of trees amongst arable crops

Goods delivered:

Public – improved biodiversity, improved soil health, reduction in water pollution

Private – long-term increased productivity, enhanced long-term soil fertility, improved business risk management

Issue: Advice needed on design and implementation of system, identification of markets, planting and long-term management of trees, support for capital investment

Support needed: % capital payments for trees and protection, advice on design and establishment via scheme, long-term advice via farmer groups/independent advisors



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Thank you
for listening

Helen Chesshire



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