



# Hedge fund

A plan to link the public and farmers to improve hedgerows & lock up carbon

Hedgerows are a key component of the UK's landscapes, offering practical utility to farmers, habitat for threatened wildlife and the ability to lock up 500,000 tonnes of carbon according to the NFU.

Despite this, the number of [hedges in the UK have halved](#) since the second world war. There is now an opportunity to restore and plant new hedges to benefit farmers, wildlife and the climate. And to invite the public to play their part.

The farming community are doing great work conserving nature, employing new (and old) techniques such as agroforestry and reducing the need for pesticides. But the public don't often get the chance to hear about or see the good work that's already happening in our countryside.

## The Aim

Climate charity [Possible](#) exists to provide meaningful opportunities for people to take climate action. The recent surge in public concern on climate change and nature means there are more and more people wanting to take practical action and feel part of the solution. And the wave of restrictions following the coronavirus outbreak means that opportunities to be active in the open air, helping our communities, are more important than ever.

We want to improve or expand hedgerows on the UK's farms, in order to:

- Provide practical utility to farmers
- Increase carbon drawdown and wildlife habitats
- Create opportunities for the public to access the countryside, nature and green space and take action on climate change
- Enable engagement between the wider public and farmers about their work, and responses to the climate and nature crises

Since 2018 Possible has worked with local communities to help deliver local tree planting. These projects focus on public planting weekends, where local community members and our supporters from further afield volunteer to plant trees and hedges.

In partnership with the Nature Friendly Farming Network we are working with farmers around the UK to expand this approach over the next planting season (autumn 2020 - spring 2021) and hopefully the followings season to spring 2022.

**We have funding to provide:**

- The trees (whips) - native broadleaf varieties suitable for the local area, including the necessary spiral guards and canes to support the young plants.
- Public planting days - we will recruit volunteers in the community and from further afield, providing boots on the ground to plant the hedges. We'll also manage everything on the day, from transport to training and ensuring all covid restrictions are adhered to (you can [read more about our plan](#) for this here).
- Advice on aftercare for your hedges, to ensure they thrive.

### **What we will need from you**

We'll take care of all the materials and will organise the planting of the hedges on your farm, but there are a few things we will need from you first:

- **Information** about the site, such as the length of land available for new hedging, land use - arable/pastoral/any livestock - and details on accessibility and any hazards we should be aware of.
- **Permission** for us and our volunteers to access the land and plant the hedges. We'll also need your advice and support preparing for the planting days, ensuring we keep everyone safe and work as efficiently as possible.
- **Commitment** to look after the hedges. There is advice on this available from the [Woodland Trust](#) and [Hedgeline](#).
- **Participation!** It's not compulsory, but we'd love to see you on the day. Our volunteers will be keen to find out more about the work that you do.

### **More information**

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