Agroforestry, Advice and Funding

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WOODLAND
TRUST

How the Woodland Trust can help

- Agroforestry /PUR
- MOREwoods
- MOREhedges
- Tree packs
- Ancient Woodland Restoration

Agroforestry/ PUR

- Bespoke agro-forestry schemes
- WT adviser visit to help plan
- Help with all aspects of planning
- Partnership + Additional WT Funding

Why do you want Agroforestry?

Choose your site carefully

- Good access
- Soil condition
- Prevailing weather
- Water too much/too little?
- Orientation
- Proximity to public/public access

Ground Preparation

- Subsoil
- Cultivate
- Plant – grass….other?

Varieties/species

- End market
- Product
- Interest
- UK Sourced and Grown

Design

- Alley
- Blocks/strips
- Wood pasture/parkland
- Orchard style
- Other?????

Protection

- Tube and stakes
- Spiral and canes
- Stake and tie
- Nothing

Case-Studies

Case Study

Whitehall Farm - Planting to improve economic returns.

Stephen and Lynn Briggs are tenant farmers at Whitehall Farm in Cambridgeshire. They have integrated trees into their wheat, barley, clover and vegetable-producing business, establishing the largest agroforestry system in the UK.

The system was implemented to reduce wind erosion affecting the fine grade one soils on the farm. It also enhances biodiversity, creates a mix of perennial and annual crops better able to meet the challenges of climate change, and diversifies their cropping.

Apple trees were planted in rows as windbreaks, but also to produce [illegible] tree rows f[illegible] north:south managed b[illegible]

A diverse r[illegible] has been es[illegible] beneath th[illegible] farmland b[illegible]

The arable [illegible] in spring ar[illegible] resources f[illegible] Tree roots [illegible] soil, beneat[illegible]

enables this system to use another di[illegible] the ground enabling maximum energ[illegible] sunlight and turned into food.

The 52 hectare silvoarable agrofores[illegible] initial £65,000 to establish in 2009 planted with trees and the remainin[illegible] the existing cereal rotation. It took [illegible] mature into full production. With th[illegible] old, fruit yield per ha is similar to th[illegible] with gross margins typically c.£10[illegible] trees will continue to grow and inc[illegible]

CASE STUDY

How tree planting saves the soil

Strategically positioned shelter belts can protect topsoil against the dangers of erosion from wind and rain, improving the productivity of a farm.

Nottinghamshire farmer Richard Thomas can recall more than one occasion when he stood watching his livelihood literally wash away before his eyes. The problems of water and wind erosion were worsening at his farm.

Haywood Oaks Farm, near Blidworth, stands on rolling hills that expose its 1,000 arable hectares (2,500 acres) to the elements. Strong winds were stripping [illegible] valuable top soil from the [illegible]

The numerous shelter belts were planted as part of [illegible] Higher Level Stewardship scheme, in a bid to addres[illegible] both problems of wind and water erosion.

But in the face of increasingly extreme weather conditions, with rainfall more than doubling in i[illegible] on the farm over the past few years, Richard, [illegible] Andrew felt compelled to take even more robu[illegible] protect their soil and the future of the farm.

Solution

The solution [illegible] prior tree planting p[illegible] pockets of p[illegible] otherwise [illegible] Trust advis[illegible] trees coul[illegible] productiv[illegible]

CASE STUDY

Agroforestry for timber, biodiversity, coppice and nut production

Maple Farm is a 138-hectare organic farm with small fields and high hedges, 50 hectares of woods and more than 25 ponds. It is mostly arable, but with 2400 layer hens, as well as pigs and sheep on a small scale. The farm has a strictly 'plot to plate' approach, growing wheat, rye and spelt, which are milled into flour on site; the by-products are fed to the animals on the farm. Maple Farm sells organic food from its barn, and supplies food shops and restaurants.

> "The main intention was to provide our layer flocks and in-house reared pullets with natural range cover, without losing the arable ability of the field. This allows us to make full use of the nutrients deposited on the field by the hens, as part of our organic system."
>
> **Mike Mallett, farm manager**

By planting trees in alleys in three large fields, Maple Farm aimed to improve its low soil fertility and generate new sources of income. Further objectives included an increase in biodiversity, the production of wood resource, and the opportunity to explore diversification through wood fuel and nuts (hazel). Maple Farm recieved financial assistance, advice and time from the Woodland Trust to carry out the tree planting.

[illegible]dland Trust funded the full cost of trees [illegible] In 2014, 1700

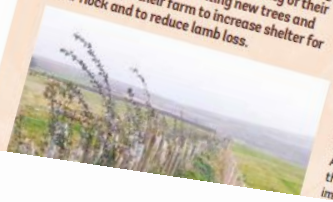
And in 2016, the third field was planted with 1500 hazels, mixed with cobnuts/filberts, to provide nuts and wood fuel, and offer shelter for the hens.

The alley planting on the three fields will contribute to soil fertility via leaf litter and improve soil structure (via deeper root systems). The trees will also produce their own 'crop' in the form of wood fuel and nuts within the rotation scheme of the farm. The rotation cycle involves keeping hens in mobile sheds on a field for one year, during which time they fertigate [fertilise] the soil. For the next two years, cereal crops (spelt, wheat or spring barley) are grown. The field then returns to pasture and hens.

CASE STUDY

Mob grazing and creating new hedgerows for livestock shelter in Cumbria

Farmers Paul and Nic Renison use mob grazing techniques to improve the productivity of their farm. They have been planting new trees and hedges across their farm to increase shelter for their flock and to reduce lamb loss.



Mob grazing a field introduces stock management at high intensity over short periods. Herbivores such as sheep are forced to eat all the plants on offer reducing their ability to be selective. The waste created during grazing becomes the mainstay of fertility addition. Smaller paddocks with hedges for shelter have longer grass growth seasons, provide additional leaf litter and reduce lamb mortality. The result is better animal and soil health, a wider range of plants including herbs and clovers, more biodiversity and fewer inputs from off-farm fertilisers. Another particular aim of Paul and Nic's is to increase the biodiversity of the farm's soil. [illegible]

CASE STUDY

Tree planting and farming hand in hand:

How to plant without affecting your subsidies

Trees can bring a wealth of benefits to a farm, from life-saving shelter for livestock, combatting soil erosion, warming the soil to extend the growing season and slowing run-off. They also provide habitats for game, birds and wildlife, attract vital pollinators; and provide an extra income through wood-fuel.

But we know many of you are worried about planting affecting your subsidies and grants. That's why the decision to leave the EU is giving us the best opportunity in a generation to change policy, to shape a new future for the land, a future that involves trees.

Unloading stakes and tubes with a forwarding machine due to waterlogged ground

We are working in partnership with the Allerton Project, spearheaded by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, on a trial to demonstrate that tree planting and farming go hand in hand. Practically the trial will demonstrate how trees and grazing can work effectively together to make farms more sustainable. The tree species and the inclusion of shrubs in some places are specifically intended as part of the game management system at the Allerton Project.

We will aim to establish the optimum number of trees that can be planted, whilst still allowing sheep to graze permanent pasture underneath the canopy. The nature of the trial means it will be an integral part of the post Brexit debate about subsidies once we leave the EU.

Stuart Holm from the Woodland Trust says:

> The grants and subsidy system is confusing. Currently it separates planting woodland from planting trees on farms. They are considered two different activities, and each come under a separate scheme with separate rules and timescales per scheme, as well as the added confusion of different rules within the UK.
>
> Farmers and landowners who see the value of trees are put off from planting because they are unsure about how this could affect their income and what agricultural activities they are and are not allowed to undertake.
>
> We are running this trial to demonstrate how grazing and trees can work together, and [illegible] for a new policy approach [illegible]

MOREwoods

- Native Broadleaved species
- 1600 trees/Ha (other densities can be considered)
- 0.5ha + can be small blocks

MOREhedges

- Funding hedgerow planting where the hedge links existing habitats
- Funding WT 60%, landowner 40% (approx. £176/100m)
- Includes 25 trees/per 100m to be planted as hedgerow trees
- Minimum 100m

Targeting Tree Disease Packs

- 45 trees
- To help replace dead, dying, lost and diseased trees across the country
- Inc. 45 stakes and 1.2m tubex shelters
- Available from website
- £62

Thank you for listening

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