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Hedgerow Restoration

The Hedgerow Restoration project aims to regenerate the hedgerows and hedgerow trees of east Berwickshire.

Berwickshire is one of the most intensively farmed lowland areas in Scotland. Since the 1940's the area has lost approximately 44% of its hedgerows and 41% of its treelines. To work towards reversing this decline Borders Forest Trust set up the Hedgerow Restoration project in 1997 working in partnership with Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT), the Borders Farming and Wildlife Advisory group (FWAG) and the Countryside Education Trust.

The project ran in two phases from 1997 to 2000 restoring hedge boundaries which linked existing woodlands and tree groups. Phase 1 restored 3,400m of hedgerows at Crosslaws Farm near Coldingham while Phase 2 restored 2,600m of hedgerow at Charterhall.

Most of the 20,000 hedge trees planted were planted by SWT volunteers with assistance from the pupils of Eyemouth primary school who regularly use Crosslaws Farm for environmental education projects.

The project was completed by spring 2000, by which time around 6km of hedges had been restored and 300 hedgerow trees had been planted on four separate landholdings.

Future management will involve retaining an uncultivated half metre wide strip on each side of the hedge to provide habitat for ground nesting birds and insects. The outcome of the Hedgerow Restoration project has and will continue to greatly strengthen the Berwickshire woodland network and wildlife habitat resource.

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