

A rolling, lowland, settled agricultural landscape with a dominant pastoral land use and small scale, defined by its hedged fields. Hedgerow and streamside trees, together with those associated with settlement, provide tree cover in a landscape with a notable network of winding lanes, scattered farms and clusters of wayside settlements.

The defining pastoral land use of these landscapes is becoming diluted due to increased arable cultivation. Hedgerows lose their function and in turn may become neglected. Over the past years hedgerows have been removed, resulting in larger fields and a change in the scale of the landscape and, although the Hedgerow Regulations should now reduce such direct damage, deteriorating management is likely to continue. The loss and deterioration of hedgerows in turn threatens the survival of the hedgerow tree populations. Hedgerow trees, together with linear tree cover associated with watercourses, are particularly important, providing the defining tree cover element of these areas.

The remaining areas of permanent pasture can often be of significant biodiver-

There may be opportunities to plant new hedgerows, restore, strengthen or protect existing hedgerows and their patterns, and promote appropriate management – in terms of maintenance regimes and protection from stock.

The species composition of existing long established hedgerows should guide the composition of new hedgerow planting. Fencing and other uncharacteristic boundary treatments could be removed and replaced by hedgerows.

Opportunities may arise to promote agri-