



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Farming in Protected Landscapes

### Case Study



#### Four Oaks Farm - Penkridge Bank

Hedgerow improvement through gapping, planting and additional hedgerow trees. Tree planting and protection of hedgerows from grazing stock. A fenced orchard will be planted in late 2022.

Total grant awarded: £16872.82



#### Project overview

The farmer recently bought this land to add to their existing farm which is located in the west of the AONB. It was heavily grazed, with intensively flailed hedgerows. The aim is to improve the hedgerows by fencing them from grazing sheep, reducing trimming to allow them to grow, filling in gaps as well as installing new field gates. A new hedgerow has also been planted to form 2 fields and connect habitats.



As there is considerable frontage to Penkridge Bank Road, hedgerow trees have been planted to restore the traditional landscape character. Other small scale tree planting has taken place around the site to improve the existing small plantations.

#### Outcomes

Support from the Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme has facilitated a change in management approach. The additional planting and fencing will increase the quality of habitats through larger, wider and better connected hedgerows. The tree planting will provide a landscape feature to this gateway into the AONB.

All this will make the landscape more resilient to climate change and make a contribution through additional carbon storage.

Once the orchard is planted, it will be used to educate school children about where their food comes from and offer valuable work skills to those looking to move into the workplace through a linked charity.

