

A New Hedge

This hedge was planted in January and February 2012 by the conservation group of CRT volunteers at the farm and consists of two rows of plants. The back row (further from the road) is mostly made up of blackthorn, which accounts for around sixty per cent of the plants in the hedge. The remaining plants are a mixture of hawthorn, field maple, dog rose and hazel.

The plants were placed at five to the linear metre (although it was later found that the measuring stick used to set out the hedge was closer to 1.3 metres in length), in an alternating pattern of three in the back row and two in the front, reversed in the next metre, and so on.

As well as its aesthetic value, the hedge serves to provide shelter to birds and other wildlife, and to supply food in the form of hazel nuts, rosehips and — from the blackthorn — sloes.

It was originally planned to have the hedge just run from the dairy to where it meets the post-and-rail fence put up by the volunteers in 2009. However, a sufficient number of plants remained — probably because of the longer measuring stick — to put a hedge in front of the dairy to act as a windbreak to the breezes that often blow across the fields and up the slope to the animals' pens. In this section, the blackthorn is in the row nearer to the dairy.



The photograph shows the work being carried out under the close supervision of Bob the Bull and members of his harem.

If you would like to become involved in the work of the Pierrepont volunteers, please visit www.crtinsurrey.org.uk/volunteer/

This sign was first published in 2012.

Pierrepont Farm

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