

Farm Conservation Management-1- knowledge recap  
**Farmland Conservation Management-**

## The effects that intensive farming practices have had on habitats and wildlife.

Biodiversity is the range of species of plants and animals in a given area.

High biodiversity= high number of different species.

### **Starter Questions-**

How have changes in farming practices since World War 2 affected farmland habitats?

What percentage of the UK is arable land?

What percentage of the UK food consumed is grown in the UK?

**FACT-**After World War 2, farmers were encouraged, through government policy to produce as much food as possible. This was to ensure national food supplies were secure. Rationing of food continued until 1954, so some food was considered scarce until this time.

The consequences of this agricultural intensification (a focus on growing as much food as possible) is that

- Hedges were taken out to create larger fields.
- Traditional farm buildings (such as barns) were replaced with modern (vermin and bird proof) buildings.
- Crops were sprayed with to prevent damage by insects and fungal diseases.
- Wetter fields were drained to make them more productive.

**Habitats-** Within a farmland habitat there are other habitats such as hedgerows, ponds, woodland, and rough grazing. Hedgerows are made up of many species of plants. They provide food and shelter for many species of insects, birds, and mammals.

### **Activity 1**

Research the wildlife that lives in hedgerows and use the information you find for activity 2.



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**Activity 2** consider the effects of intensive farming on biodiversity- complete the table below.

1. For each of the 4 consequences of agricultural intensification list what type of species might be affected (the first one is done for you).
2. Extension -for each species create a food chain and explain how the loss of habitat for one species impacts on the whole food chain.

Consequence	Types of species affected	Impact
Hedges were taken out to create larger fields	Birds Insects and spiders Hedgerow plants Small mammals living in hedge bottoms	Loss of hawthorn berries at bottom of the food chain, creates less food for vole, which means fewer voles and subsequently fewer owls.
Traditional farm buildings were replaced with modern buildings.		
Crops were sprayed with to prevent damage by insects and fungal diseases.		
Drainage of wetter fields to make them more productive		



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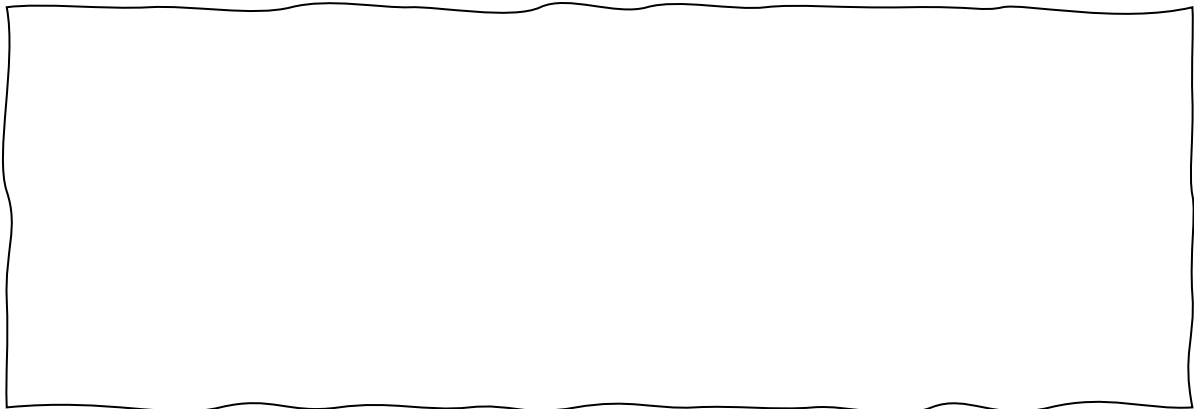
**Activity 3**-consider how farmland can be better managed to encourage more species and therefore greater biodiversity.

In the film you saw how farmers and gamekeeper manage farmland to encourage biodiversity.

List three ways a farmer could encourage insects on the farm

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how increasing insects (at the bottom of the food chain) increases biodiversity in the rest of the food chain.



Further information

<https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/action-for-insects>

<https://www.fwi.co.uk/arable/crop-management/pests/how-to-increase-beneficial-insects-in-arable-crops>

<https://farmwildlife.info/>