

Media Release: 4th June 2020

The Real Hedge Fund is Launched

The Lake District Foundation works with partners to help care for the landscape, wildlife and heritage of the area. We know that people have been really valuing our natural world during lockdown and we have been getting lots of enquires about how best to offer support. We think hedgerows tick a lot of boxes!

We have an ambitious plan want to create or reinstate 4 Kilometres of new hedgerows in the Lake District.

It costs approximately £25 per metre to create a beautiful biodiverse hedgerow that creates a habitat for animals and pollinators, helps prevent flooding and maintains the historic boundaries of our field systems.

Sadly, over the last 70 years our hedgerows have become significantly reduced both in the length and in quality.

We think this is the ideal time to engage and support farmers, landowners and communities to reinstate and improve their hedgerows.

We will start the work in the Ullswater Valley with Ullswater Catchment Management and then look to extend to other parts of the Lake District and Cumbria. Our other partners include The Federation for Common Land and the Lake District National Park Authority who will help us roll out the campaign.

The funding will be distributed in the form of grants that will help us monitor:
Long term maintenance and care of hedgerows
Impact of the planting of the hedgerows and how they help the surrounding countryside.
The biodiversity in each hedgerow and the improvements that can be made.
Looking at new ways to create hedges.
The advantages for flood prevention and sound control.

Sarah Swindley, Lake District Foundation's CEO, said: "The Real Hedge Fund will be a fantastic way for local farmers, locals and tourism industry to work together to improve the biodiversity and create wonderful habitats for the amazing range of species we have here in the Lake District. Working. We also like the tongue in cheek message about Hedge Funds and think we can encourage people to see nature as the best investment with the highest return!

A great way to help with the Real Hedge fund is to get donating here.

<https://www.lakedistrictfoundation.org/the-real-hedge-fund/>

#realhedgefund

For further information on the ways to get involved, please visit:

<https://www.lakedistrictfoundation.org/the-real-hedge-fund/>

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Notes to Editors:

- The Lake District Foundation, registered charity number 1174201, inspires people to donate to projects that care for the spectacular wildlife, landscapes and cultural heritage of the Lake District and Cumbria. The LDF supports the delivery of the shared aims of the Lake District National Park Partnership as the main fundraising and grant making partner. This is achieved through innovative and successful fundraising campaigns locally, nationally and internationally. The Lake District Foundation encourages partners to work together to ensure a coordinated approach to fundraising and income generation. For more information visit www.lakedistrictfoundation.org.
- For more information, please contact Steve Tonkin at the Lake District Foundation on: 01539 822622 / 07971595003 or email steve.tonkin@lakedistrictfoundation.org

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