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THE CORNISH HEDGE

How old is this hedge?

How old is this field?

How old is this farmstead?

By a small calculation one can simply calculate the age of any hedge.

Here in Cornwall we may have some of the oldest hedges in England.

Hedges have been disappearing from our countryside at an alarming rate over the last half century.

Hedges have stood for hundreds of years but in a few cases some of them have been removed as here at Churchtown farm Community Nature Reserve to make way for larger fields.

Cornwall has some of the earliest fields in the country. These date back to the Bronze Age.

The age of a hedge can be ascertained with a considerable degree of accuracy by measuring about 30 yards or so, and then counting the number of different types of trees and shrubs in the measured section. Repeat this for the full length of the hedge.

Then ascertain the average number of species per sections.

*The number of species per sections is the age of the hedge.
e.g. 4 species = 400 years*

species = 500 years

5

species = 600 years

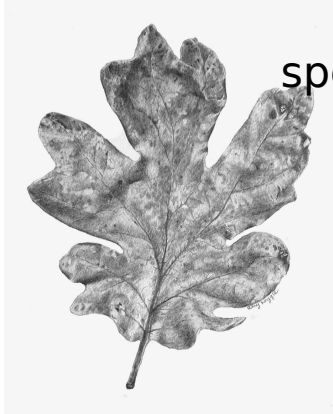
6

species = 700 years

7

And

so on



K. Rawlings

Warden

Churchtown Farm Community Reserve
SALTASH Cornwall