

Protection from pests

Presently Cripsey Meadow has a persistent problem with **rabbits, deer** and **pigeons** and it can be very disappointing when your hard work results in feeding them. Brambles, trees and untended areas give these pests protection and the reclamation is reducing the problems from rabbits and pigeons but the muntjak is proving difficult to limit. Our small fruit trees should encourage song birds rather than pigeons and magpies which like higher perches, although the pollarded willows will soon grow on our boundaries and provide more height. There are other measures you can take to encourage wild life – see our wild life page.

You can get some protection from

Chicken wire fencing. Fencing the whole plot can be expensive so look around and try to join onto a fence that exists. Be careful not to erect fences that mean ground is left to develop brambles. You are responsible for keeping the plot clear of weeds and 2 ft around clear of rubbish, brambles etc. A rabbit fence should be sunk by some 6" and be at least 4' to 4'.6" with a straining wire above at 5 ft to keep off muntjak.

If you cannot afford fencing consider using **enviromesh** which will give you some protection for individual crops and works against pigeons. This can act as barrier to insects and birds so think about pollination and open when on the plot. It is expensive but lasts a long time and does give some protection from cold.

Moving deterrents like scarecrows and glitter bangs can help with pigeons.

We have '**Badger Gates**' to let the Badger in and out as no fencing will keep them away and this saves destruction to the fence. They like the wood chip piles and forage for worms and slugs.