

# The private life of bees & Mr Partridge

Your farmland biodiversity ambassadors of today



Dr Francis Buner



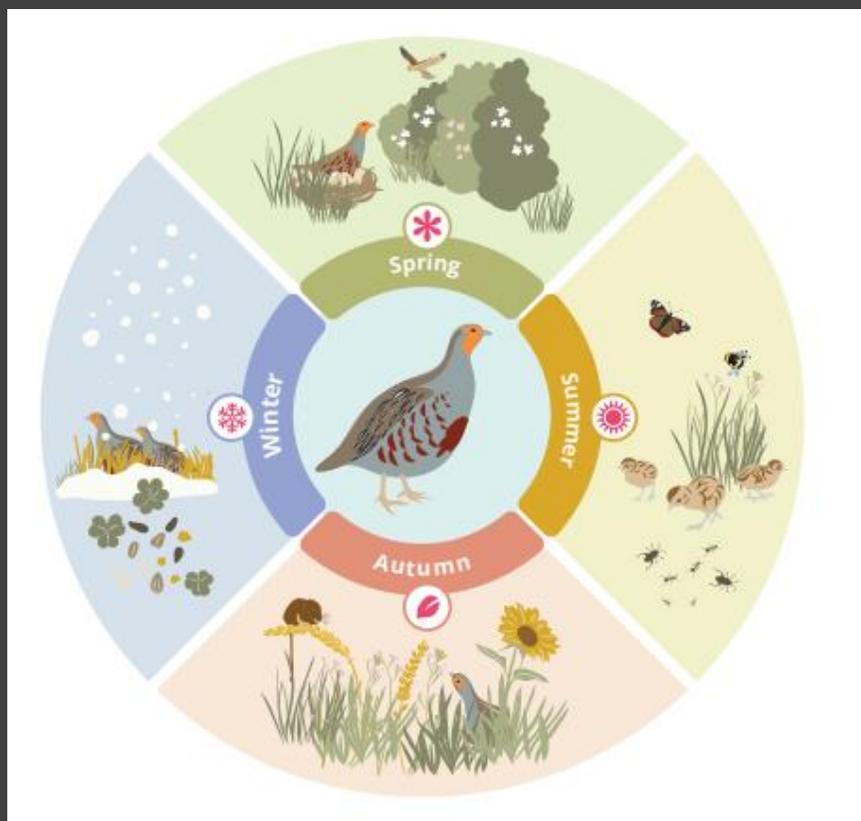
Mrs Lotta Fabricius Kristiansen



# Grey partridge – Umbrella species – Ambassador species - Bees



# Essentials for bees and grey partridges



Key: Suitable habitat year-round

# Spring habitat



Hedge blossom ©Markus Jenny



“ If I got 1 Euro for each photo that people take of my flower blocks, I wouldn't have to work anymore!

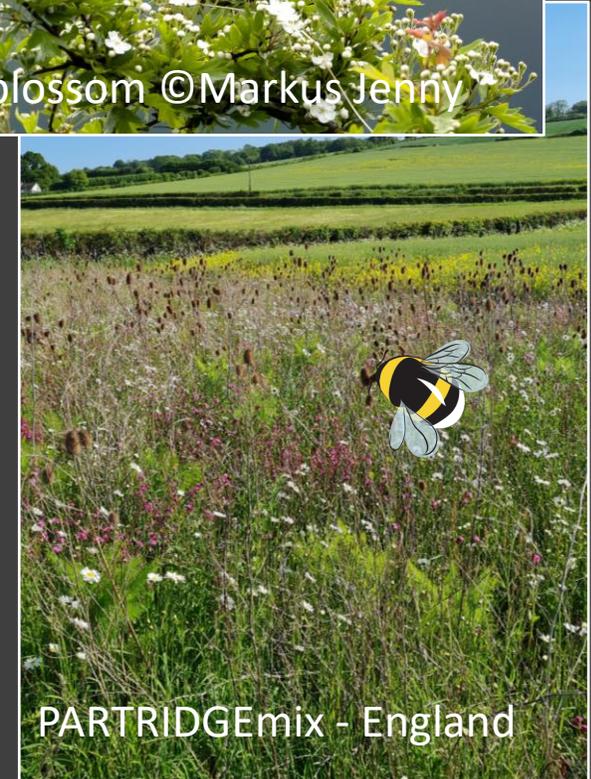
Werner Magerhans – farmer  
Diemarden, Germany



PARTRIDGEmix – Germany

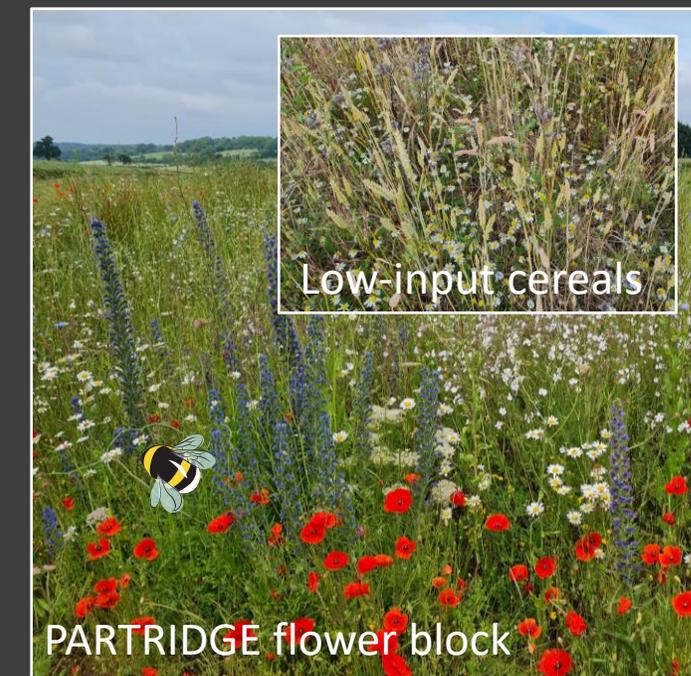
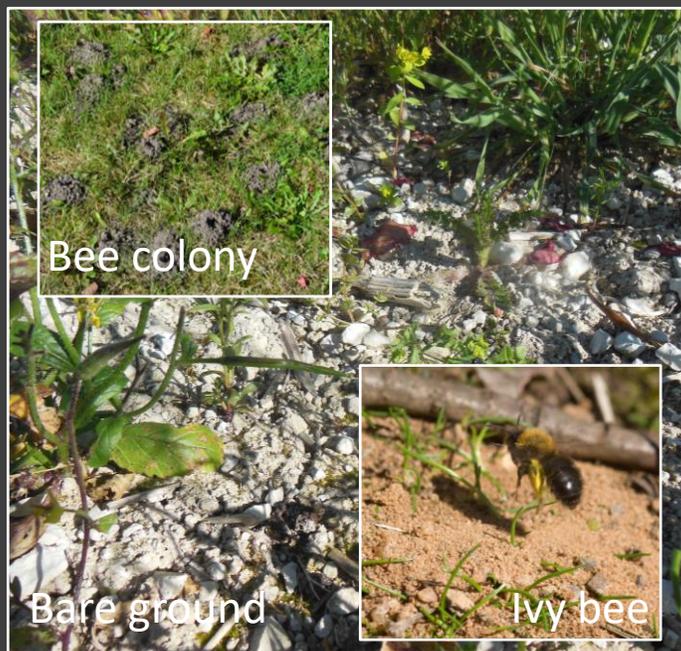
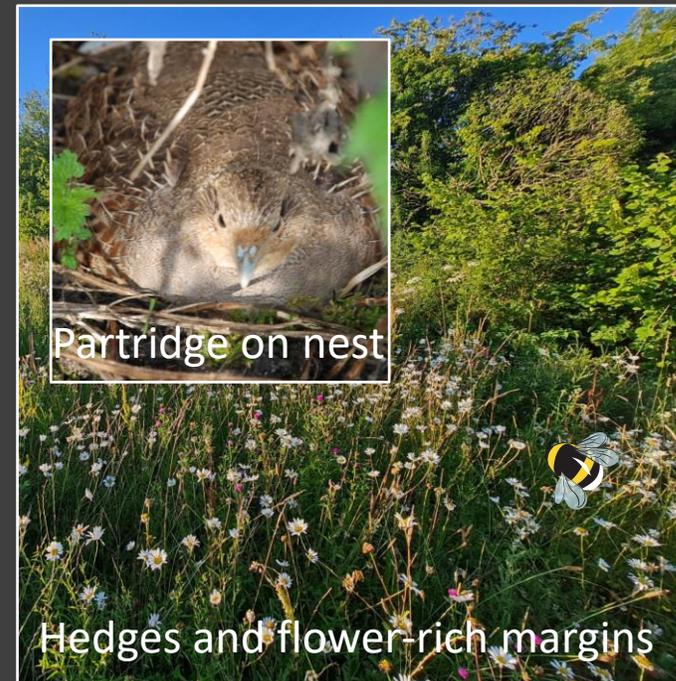


PARTRIDGEmix – Flanders



PARTRIDGEmix - England

# Nesting habitat



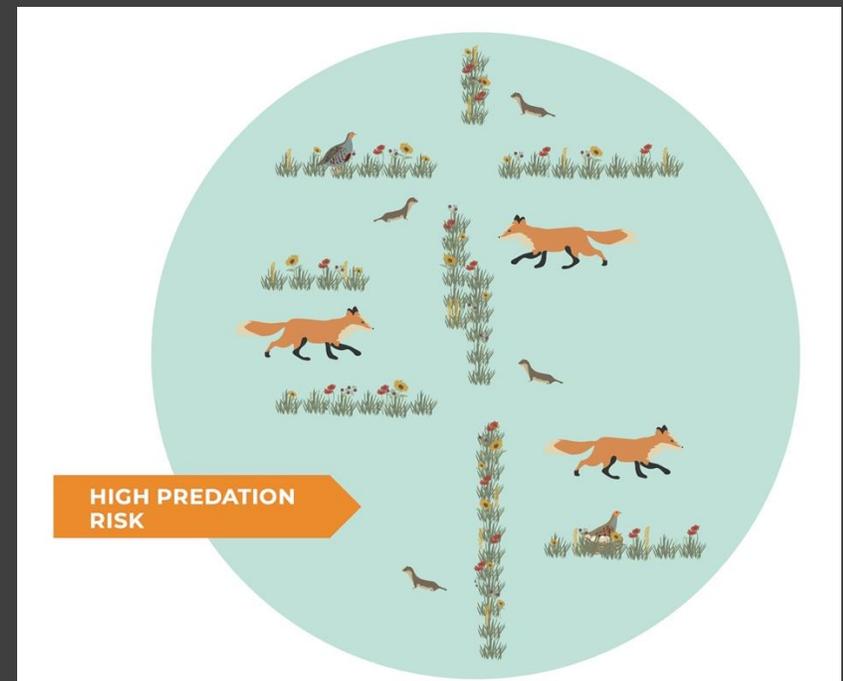
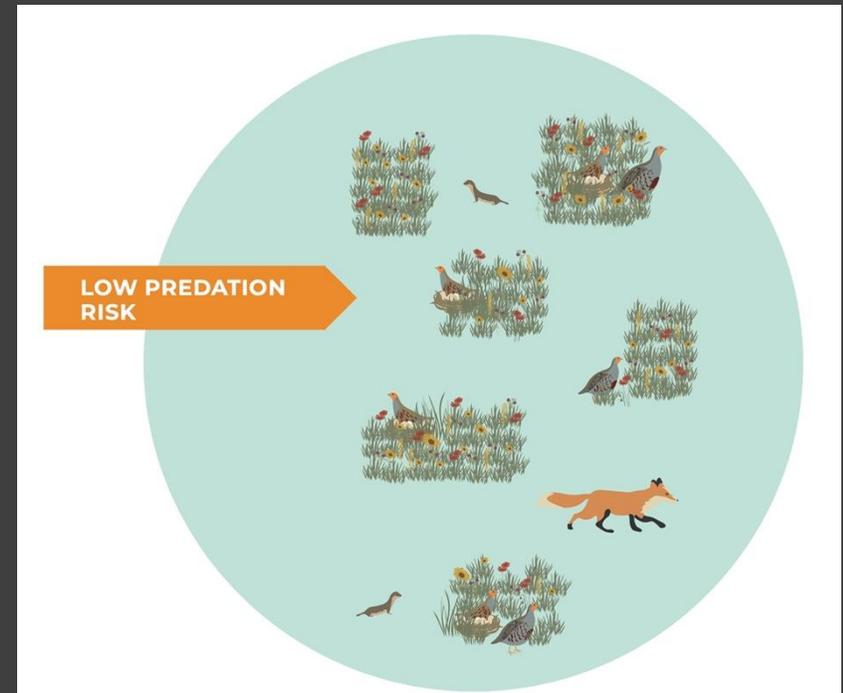
# Predation



Male GP defending his brood



Female GP with day-old chicks



# Grassland habitats



Uncut grass margin along hedge



Flower-rich meadow on arable reversion

“I wanted to try new processes, something future-oriented that does not go towards extensification. The BEESPOKE mixes allow me to use my sites intensively for my dairy cows with the ecological background of being pollinator-friendly.”

- Nils von Deetzen -

# Mid-summer foraging habitat



Orchard with flowers



BEESPOKE flower plot



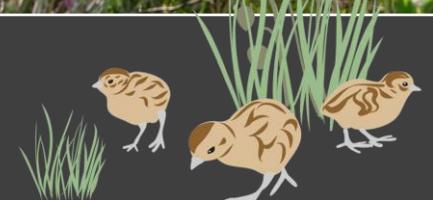
*Andrena nitida* ©Will George



PARTRIDGE flower plot



Margin for arable flora



# Late summer habitat



Partridge covey in stubble field



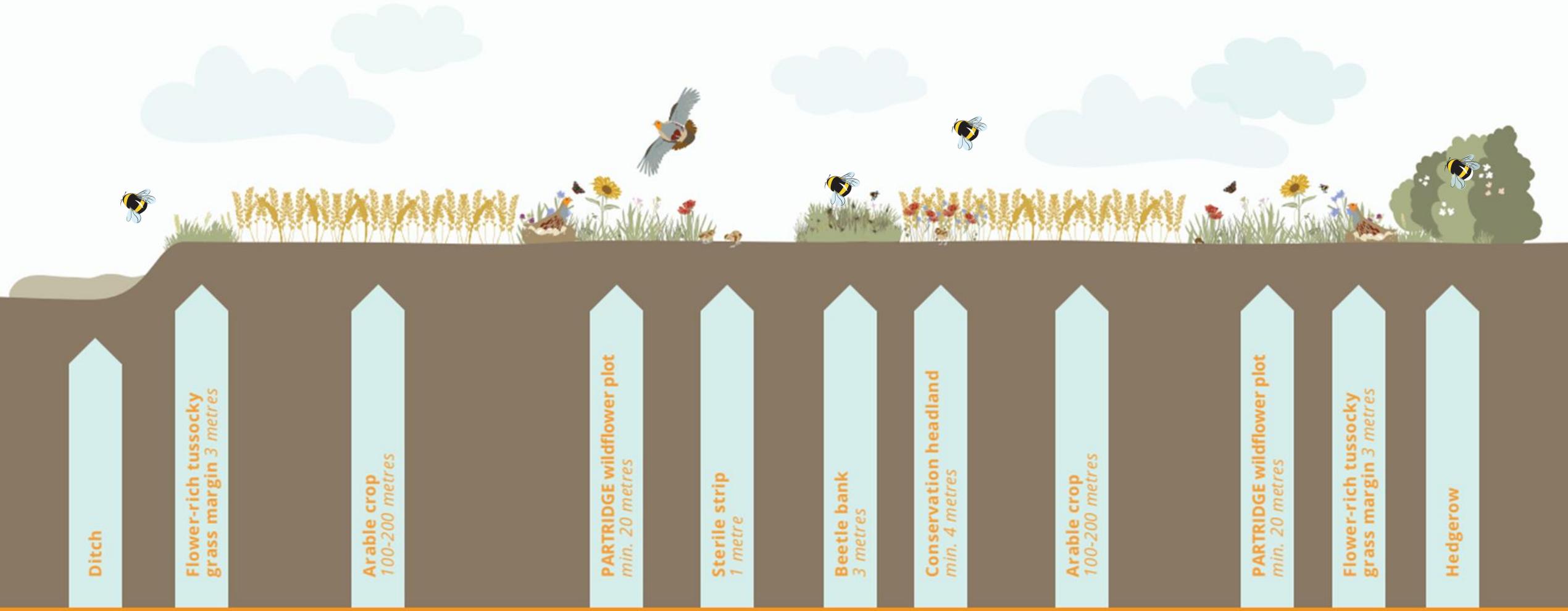
Rotational PARTRIDGEmix block - England

## 2. Winter & early spring habitat



# Habitat diversity

**Figure 4** An idealised arrangement of PARTRIDGE conservation measures for farmland biodiversity recovery projects in Europe. When applied together, they provide for the needs of grey partridges all year round and allow farmland wildlife generally to recover.



# Landscape scale



# Further reading

## FARMING WITH NATURE

Promoting biodiversity across Europe through partridge conservation

**JEN BREWIN, FRANCIS BUNER & JULIE EWALD**



### Pollinator identification guide and record sheet

<p>Flax bee</p>	<p>Pollen bucket</p>	<p>Pollen on last leg</p>	<p>Some look like honeybees</p>
	<p>Pollen-carrying leg</p>		

#### HONEY BEES

- Top area of abdomen is often flat
- Vary forward last leg – 'pollen basket'
- Non-dense, short, hair on last legs
- Last legs are usually 'hang down' in flight
- Moistened spherical pollen on last leg
- Size ~ 18mm, and 'hairy' eyes

#### SOLITARY BEES

- Pollen-carrying hair; last legs or under abdomen
- Often hairy but less than bumblebees
- Subdued colours, less clear bands than bumblebees
- Lots of species and variable in colour and size
- Size ~ 18mm and smaller

<p>Twin wasps</p>		<p>Twin</p>	
		<p>Twin wasp with pollen</p>	

#### HOVERFLIES

- Can be 'hovering' above flowers
- Only one pair of wings usually held out at 45°
- Roundish head
- Round eyes covering most of the head area
- Short antenna compared to bees
- Not hairy

#### BUMBLEBEES

- More rounded body, very hairy / fluffy
- Usually, tail folds downwards when on flowers
- Moistened pollen on last legs
- Clear colour bands (not all species)
- Queens = 20-33mm / Workers = 11-17mm

[www.northsearegion.eu/beespoke](http://www.northsearegion.eu/beespoke) @BeespokeNSR

