



Biodiversity Action Across Teignbridge Parishes

Conserve

Enhance

Protect



Parish Hedgerow Management

Benefits and Outcomes

Hedgerows are absolutely wonderful for wildlife, and we are very lucky to have such fabulous ones here in Devon!

Just a few minor tweaks in their management can ensure that they:

- remain thick and bushy for nesting birds and mammals
- provide vital berries and nuts in autumn to sustain wildlife through winter
- provide fantastic corridors for wildlife moving through our landscape

Hedgerows can be thriving with life; one study found 2070 different species within an 85m stretch of a well-managed hedgerow!

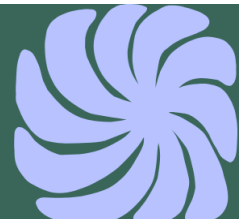




Conserve

Enhance

Protect



What is Involved

- **Trim hedges in late winter**, ideally in January or February, after fruits, nuts, and berries have been eaten.
- **Avoid cutting hedges every year**. Instead, cut every two (or even better, every three) years to maximize flowers and fruits. Rotate the cuts so that only half or a third of the hedges are cut in any one year OR cut just one side per year.
- **Increase the number of hedgerow trees** by selecting and marking some existing, strongly rooted saplings within the hedge. Use brightly coloured stakes or poles to keep them from being flailed.
- **Plant up gaps in hedges**; even small gaps can be an obstacle for wildlife moving through.

Costs

Yearly costs of parish hedge management could be reduced, depending on the management plan adopted.

Actions

- Could the management of hedgerows under the care of the Parish Council be reviewed with wildlife in mind? Your local Wildlife Warden can help or visit the Peoples Trust for Endangered Species website for great advice.
- Could the Parish Council provide financial support for hedgerow walks and surveys to be done?
- Could farmers and landowners be encouraged to work with local Wildlife Wardens and apply for Sustainable Farming Incentives (SFIs) for hedgerow management?



Action Climate in Teignbridge Wildlife Warden Scheme

