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PLANTS: TREES AND SHRUBS

Plant native wildlife hedge



Hedgerows of native plants provide food, shelter and nesting sites for wildlife. Bare-rooted saplings are cheap, available in bulk, and can be planted in winter. Wildflowers and bulbs can be planted at the base.



Suitability	Low, medium and high density housing if sufficient space for new hedgerow(s).
Management type	Hedgerow management (see also Option 15: Reduced hedge cutting, page 35).
Supplier information	Consult your local Wildlife Trust for advice on suitable suppliers. Potentially could get free trees from the Woodland Trust if qualify: http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/frequently-asked-questions .
Community engagement?	Yes – potential to involve volunteer residents in helping to plant hedgerow saplings as part of a community engagement event.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in food, shelter, and nesting sites for wildlife. • Screening benefits (noise mitigation, privacy, hiding unsightly objects and views). • Flood attenuation.
Costs/Disbenefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial cost: Low (depending on length of hedge – approx. between £50 to £100 per 10 m of hedging plants and associated bulb/wildflower mix sowing). • An increase in tree pollen may cause a greater allergies risk to residents. In order to reduce this risk, aim to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » plant a diverse mix of species, » avoid the mass use of male individuals of dioecious species, » choose species with low-moderate pollen production.
Level of ongoing maintenance	Medium.

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		Notes
How achieved	Clear area of existing vegetation. Plant bare root native trees in a double staggered layer. Plant hedgerow/woodland plants (either plugs or sow appropriate wildflower mix) 1 metre from hedge line. Avoid double-flowered varieties as these often produce very little pollen and nectar.	
Timing of activity	November-March. Avoid planting in very cold or windy weather to reduce the risk of root damage Never plant in soil that is frozen or waterlogged.	
Long-term management	<p>Regular pruning in years 1-3 to create desired structure and density – recommend spring, summer and autumn/winter cut. Then a single cut every 2-3 years, avoiding the bird nesting season (February-August).</p> <p>Cutting times depend on what you want from the hedge and which of the planted trees are the most successful. Avoid cuts when main flowering species are in flower, e.g. Blackthorn (March-April), Hawthorn (April-May). Light trimming is best once established, rather than heavy cuts.</p> <p>See http://www.hedgelink.org.uk.</p>	
Monitoring success	<p>General recording (see page 6).</p> <p>A butterfly transect or timed count could be set up as part of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme http://www.ukbms.org, simple butterfly timed counts can be conducted using the European Butterfly Monitoring app https://butterfly-monitoring.net/ebms-app. Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) counts can be conducted as part of the National Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS) https://www.ceh.ac.uk/pollinator-monitoring.</p> <p>Conduct Plantlife’s ‘Every Flower Counts’ survey of lawns to survey the number of flowers present and contribute to calculating a National Nectar Score: http://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts.</p> <p>Take part in the ‘Great British Hedgerow Survey’ run by the People’s Trust for Endangered Species (PTES): https://hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org.</p>	