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BIRDS AND MAMMALS

Reduced hedgerow cutting



Reduced cutting to allow hedges to grow wider, denser and taller with some standard trees. This results in an increase in flowers, fruits and nuts which are important resources for pollinators (as well as a wide range of other invertebrates), birds and small mammals. Hedgerows act as important wildlife corridors as well as providing homes for a wide variety of wildlife.

Suitability	Low, medium and high density housing if existing hedgerows are present.
Management type	Hedgerow management.
Community engagement?	Limited scope: important to engage residents with site management proposals and explain why reducing hedgerow cuts will benefit wildlife.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » floral resources for pollinators and other invertebrates, » fruits and nuts for birds and small mammals and other wildlife, » nest sites for birds and small mammals, » shelter and refuge for a variety of wildlife. • Reduced management costs.
Costs/Disbenefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial cost: N/A – cost-saving potential. • May be a perception of ‘untidiness’ by residents. Important to clearly communicate to residents the benefits to wildlife from reducing hedge-cutting.
Level of ongoing maintenance	Low.



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		Notes
How achieved	Reduced cutting to allow hedgerows to grow wider, denser and taller with some standard trees. Hedgerows are most valuable when at least 1.2 m high and 1 m wide. The aim is to cut in an 'A' shape (see Hedgeline link below for more information).	
Timing of activity	Autumn.	
Long-term management	<p>Recommend a single annual cut every 2-3 years, avoiding the bird nesting season (Feb-Aug inclusive).</p> <p>Recommend managing hedgerows for flowering resources so avoid cuts when main flowering species are in flower, e.g. Blackthorn (March-April), Hawthorn (April-May). Light trimming rather than intensive cuts is recommended.</p> <p>Useful reference for hedgerow management: http://www.hedgeline.org.uk.</p>	
Monitoring success	<p>General recording (see page 6).</p> <p>Invertebrate surveys – a butterfly timed count could be set up as part of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme http://www.ukbms.org.</p> <p>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>Take part in 'The Great British Hedgerow Survey' run by the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES): https://hedgerowsurvey.ptes.org.</p>	