

Hedgelaying



Hedges are a cheap and easy way to create bio-diversity hotspots. They attract and support so many species that are suffering due to habitat loss, providing them with homes, food and protection. Once created they are low maintenance self supporting eco systems, hosting birds, hedgehogs, mice, shrews, frogs, snakes and a whole host of insects and spiders. Traditional hedge-laying techniques create denser hedges improving the habitat.

“A really easy way to create bio diverse habitats that help vulnerable native species”



The loss of hedgerows due to the advent of industrial farming and urbanisation, has had a devastating impact on this vital habitat. Hedge-laying has enjoyed a recent resurgence, as people now recognise how these traditional skills, can be used to solve more contemporary problems. In rural settings and urban environments alike.

The reasons for doing so might be different, but the techniques are the same; skills that have been passed through generations are now useful to provide rich habitats for our native and visiting wildlife.

Hedgerows provide a useful tool to tackle so many modern day issues, such as air quality, flooding, habitat loss, food security, pollinators, bio-diversity, storm protection. You can even use them as a substitute for fences!



Natures road network

The more hedges the better as it creates an interconnected network across the countryside. Akin to our own road network, this allows nature to travel and move to new areas. This helps with breeding, bio-diversity and resilience to severe shocks such as climatic events.

Hedgerows provide a service station on natures road network, with an abundance of food and shelter for their permanent and temporary residents. With safe over-winter accommodation for hibernators.

Hedges as flood defence

Hedges are another useful tool for tackling flood risk. They slow water down as it flows across fields. They catch debris as large as trees, which would otherwise block channels, drains and weirs downstream.



NEWT have our own hedge-laying projects but also help local community groups with their projects. We run hedge-laying courses with an emphasis on bio-diversity. As a charity who runs volunteer groups, we can run events on behalf of local groups, providing training, tools, health & safety provisions and lunch for large groups of people. We enjoy working with others and hope to encourage more people to start their own projects.