

# 3 HEDGEROWS



## OUR COUNTRYSIDE'S LARDER

Watlington parish is criss-crossed by about **45km of hedgerows**, the linear living boundaries that define so much of the English landscape.

Well managed species-diverse hedges are the countryside's larder, covered in blossom in spring and laden with berries in the autumn, harbouring many birds, invertebrates and small mammals.

Well managed hedgerows reduce soil erosion, provide flood defence, sequester carbon and provide valuable food and shelter for wildlife.



The berries of Spindle, Hawthorn and Blackthorn are only some of the many berries to be found in hedges.

## TIPS FOR HEALTHY HEDGEROWS

- Keep hedges thick; closely interwoven branches are perfect for nesting birds.
- Only cut hedges back late in the winter; berries provide a valuable food source over the winter months.
- Encourage native shrubs, and let wildflowers and grasses grow at the base of the hedgerow.
- Hedges provide vital wildlife corridors; healthy hedges should link with other hedges, woodlands and even wetlands.

Traditional hedgerows were cut and laid every 10 years or so, ensuring they provided thick livestock-proof boundaries which also benefited wildlife.



## LOCAL ACTIONS

Watlington Green Plan volunteers have been surveying the local hedgerows, with training and support from hedgerow expert Nigel Adams. We aim to build up

a picture of our hedgerow network then identify opportunities to improve existing hedges and plant new ones.

Support Green Plan actions!



Donate here

## WHAT YOU CAN DO!

Help us to plant new hedgerows as our Hedgerow Project develops.

Plant native hedgerow plants in gardens instead of putting up fences

Never cut hedges during the nesting season (1 March to 31 August)

Discover local hedgerows when out walking, seeing how they change with the seasons.

Photo credit: Nicola Schafer and Fiona Banks

GREEN PLAN ART TRAIL

CREATED / SUPPORTED BY:



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE GREEN PLAN GO TO:

[www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/green-plans](http://www.watlingtonclimateaction.org.uk/green-plans)