

What is a Hedge?

Physically, hedges are a living fence or wall between neighbours, farmers, private and public land, but they have great ecological importance that is not always visible. They can be predominantly one single plant species, such as *Leylandii*, or ancient hedgerows made up of many plant species.

Hedges are an essential part of UK ecology, with many of our species relying heavily on hedgerows for survival.

Why are hedges important?

Hedges provide shelter, food and nesting for a wide range of species, and act as corridors between woodlands in agricultural landscapes.

Hedgerow habitat action plans

Hedgerows are listed as a priority habitat for conservation in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The main focus of activity lies on improving the quality of existing hedgerows and working with others, such as landowners and farmers, to reduce hedgerow loss and damage.

There are a number of organisations and charities who can provide detailed information on the status of UK hedgerows and the various plans in place to conserve them.