



Durham HEDGE GRANT

Importance of HEDGEROWS

For centuries, hedgerows have been an important part of County Durham's landscape, serving as living fences and providing shelter for livestock. Although hedgerows remain vitally important for agriculture, these reasons for keeping them are less valid and studies show that hedgerows are declining through neglect and lack of management.

However, there are still strong justifications for looking after and planting new hedgerows. Hedgerows are an important part of our cultural and historical heritage and are of great value to wildlife. Increasingly, they are also valued for the role they play in soil conservation, reducing pollution, and for their potential to regulate water supply and to reduce flooding.

Hedges also have a global role in mitigating biodiversity loss and climate change.



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Funding is available to restore existing hedges and plant new ones. This will help to;

- Rejuvenate hedges through hedgelaying and coppicing to reduce gaps which will ensure they survive long into the future and continue to provide food, shelter and breeding sites for a wide range of wildlife
- Establish new hedges to link habitats and allow wildlife to move across the landscape
- Plant new hedgerow trees to increase the amount of wildlife that uses the hedge and reinforces the character of the landscape





Who can APPLY?

Any individual or organisation can apply for the grant. Whoever applies must be able to control the management of the land for the length of the agreement (10 years).

To qualify for the grant, the scheme should:

- have the permission of the landowner
- be in keeping with the local landscape character
- not be receiving grant aid from another source
- not involve works which are a requirement of planning permission
- not form part of the curtilage of a residential property
- be maintained for 10 years
- be visible from a road or public right of way



RATES of PAYMENT

A standard rate of payment is available for a range of works listed below. These are set at approximately 50% of the market rate.

Hedgerows

Hedgelaying (average stem size <4" at base)	£5.00/m
Hedgelaying (average stem size 4-6" at base)	£6.00/m
Hedgelaying (average stem size >6" at base)	£7.00/m
Binding	£0.60/m
Hedge coppicing	£3.00/m
Hedge gapping up* (4 plants/m)	£2.40/m
Hedge replanting / new planting* (6 plants/m)	£2.40/m
Hedge guards and cane (per plant)	£0.30
Herbicide prior to planting	£0.25/m

* Minimum 60-90cm size plants

Hedgerow trees

Tree with protection (per plant) (minimum 90-120cm size plant)	£5.00/m
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Fencing

Sheep fencing	£5.00/m
Rabbit netting	£1.00/m
Post and wire fencing	£1.20/m
Addition of electric top wire	£1.20/m

Durham Hedgerow Partnership
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