



Wildlife Friendly Addingham

Hedgerows - wildlife havens

Pollution, climate change, invasive species and habitat destruction are all threats to wildlife.

Hedgerows are important to wildlife but miles and miles have been lost in recent years because of removal or poor management.

Many threatened species of birds, mammals, insects etc. need the food, shelter, breeding sites and travel corridors that hedgerows provide.

Dry stone walls are the typical field boundaries around here, but there are plenty of hedges too. Many were planted in the 18th century when village common land was divided. Some though, are much earlier, such as those on Addingham Moorside, which were first planted before 1500. In medieval times individual villagers worked strips of land on The South Field (fields between The Sailor Pub and the by-pass). In the 16th century one such strip was enclosed by hedges, the remnants of which can still be seen today.



Addingham Environment Group have improved some of the eastern margin of Hoffman Wood Field to make it more attractive to wildlife.



A double row of native species including **Blackthorn, Field Maple, Hazel, Roan and Dog Rose** was planted during Winter 2019/20.

In early 2021, the bottom corner was further planted with **Beech, Field Maple and Birch**.

The aim is to produce a thorny, dense hedge that provides food and shelter throughout the year. Once established, we could improve the hedgerow further by planting Ivy, Honeysuckle and Bramble to provide even more food for wildlife. Ivy, for example, provides nectar, pollen and berries during autumn and winter when little else is about.



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Hawthorn is a very common hedgerow plant. Its name is derived from the Anglo-Saxon hagathorn which literally means “hedgethorn”.

Hedges are best when they are made up of a good mix of different trees and shrubs . They can then support a large number of animals due to a diversity of flowering and fruiting times.

This list gives the approximate number of insects that feed and live on common hedgerow plants:

Hawthorn – 207

Blackthorn – 153

Dog Rose – 107

Beech – 98

Holly – 10



Many bird species are associated with hedgerows. Woodland birds such as Blue tit, Great tit, Wren, Blackbird, Robin and Chaffinch are all common in wider hedgerows.

The more plant species in a hedge, the more insects it will support and in turn more birds are attracted for feeding.

As well as birds many animals will use our hedgerows. These include:

Mice

Voles

Hedgehogs

Butterflies

Bees

Beetles and other insects

Bats

