



The Hampshire Hedge



The countryside charity
Hampshire

The Hampshire Hedge

An ambitious three-year project to plant a hedge connecting the South Downs and New Forest national parks.

Once complete the hedgerow corridor will link woodlands, meadows, local nature reserves, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) via a network of new and existing hedgerows.



We are now in the second phase of the Hampshire Hedge project and have just completed the second year of planting.



Snapshot of Achievements

Yr 2



5,926 metres of hedge planted



26,000 whips planted and 40 trees



Volunteer time: 5,220 hours



Engaged with 1,976 young people



111 people trained in hedge laying



12 talks - online and in person



Supported 3 hedge laying traineeships



Funded 9 community groups



Worked with 12 schools



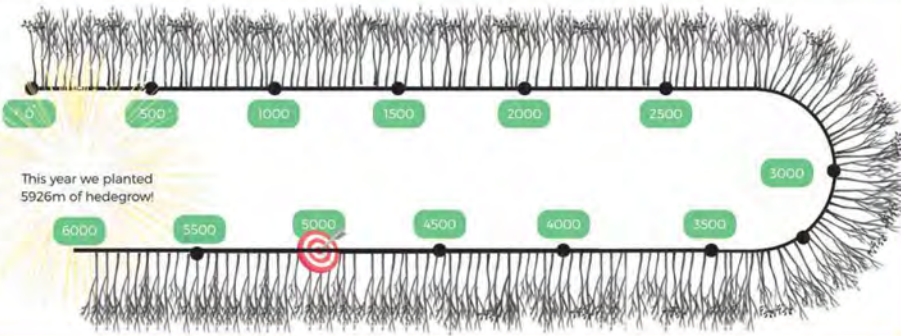
The Hampshire Hedge has reached the half way point!

Our Hedgerow champions

Our dedicated hedgerow volunteers have contributed 2,967 hrs of hedge planting and mulching over 28 sessions, as well as loss assessing last years planting



Total metres of hedgerow planted for 2024/25



We've hosted 55 planting and mulching events for schools, scouts, volunteers and youth groups.



Community Hedge Fund Grants

The funding is designed to help with:

- purchase of whips, tree guards
- cost of labour and materials (stakes and binders) of hedge restoration by laying
- hedge laying training course

This winter, our Community Hedge Fund has supported 9 community groups across Hampshire, planting a total of 472m of new hedgerow, training 27 people to lay hedges and laying a further 95m of existing hedgerow.



Our 2024/2025 Community Hedge Fund projects include Sholing Valleys Study Centre; Lyndhurst Parish Council; New Alresford Town Council; Friends of Ballard Water Meadow; Twyford Valley Conservation group; Braishfield Parish Council; Highcliff Allotments; Bishops Waltham Greening group; Friends of Portswood Rec



This year, we've funded 9 community projects through our Community Hedge Fund grants.

Talks and community events

- Given 7 talks
- Hosted 5 online talks
- Hedgerow Management walk & talk
- 2x Hedgerow foraging walks
- 3x Eco printing workshops
- Tree hay workshop
- Countryside Day
- Raised our profile at numerous parish council meetings, country shows, outdoor events



We hosted over 120 in person hedgerow events, alongside online talks which have been viewed by over 200 people.

Bringing hedgerows to the classroom

What we offer to schools:

- Whole school assemblies
- Classroom activities tailored to school year and curriculum
- Hedge planting sessions
- Hedgerow lesson plans and activity sheets, hedgerow flora and fauna colouring
- Hedgerow Kitbags

We've worked with 12 schools, 1,926 young people, planted hedgerows with 9 of them, totalling 616m of new hedgerow on Hampshire schools playgrounds.



We've engaged 12 schools and over 1976 students.

Bringing hedgerows to the young adults

Widening our reach, we have been able to engage with young adults:

- Secondary school - 3 planting sessions and assembly
- College - 4 planting sessions with Sparsholt Agricultural College
- Winchester Youth Counselling - 2 planting sessions for youth group
- University students - hedgerow surveying training and workshop & a Project Management workshop
- 2 student placements, contributing 170hrs of volunteer time



We've planted 738m of hedgerow with 12-18yrs olds.

Hedge-Laying Training Courses

Worked with 4 professional hedge layers, trained 111 people across 19 days of training, with a further 48 people attending our improver days.



7x 1-day courses



6 x 2-day courses



4 x Improver days



We partnered with the South of England Hedge-laying Society to launch Hedgerow Improver Sessions.



Hedge-Laying Traineeships

This year, we are proud that 2 of our 3 trainees were young females, as we push for more equal representation in the hedge-laying profession.

Six of our former and current trainees showcased their skills at the South of England Hedge Laying Competition in February, as well as one trainee competing in 2 other local competitions.

Total of 5 prizes won, including Best Female Competitor!



Past and present hedgerow trainees competed at the 40th Anniversary South of England Annual Hedgelaying Competition

Whats next?

As we move into the third and final phase of the Hampshire Hedge project, our focus will be on completing the remaining hedge laying and planting activities, making the most of the opportunities and voice of the project, celebrating our achievements!

- Hedge mulching
- Hedge surveying and management plans
- Continuing schools programme
- Hedgerow foraging walks
- Craft workshops
- Summer shows & fayres
- Loss assessing
- Countryside Day
- Recruiting hedge laying trainees



Thank You!



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Meet Our Team



Ellie Banks



Yolande Yomas



Ellie Banks was awarded Young
Changemaker of the Year at the Action
Hampshire Awards





