



Hedges and other wildlife

Our hedges, sod banks and verges are not just important for nesting birds. Looking after these habitats is essential for the conservation of a multitude of wild animals and plants, and for a healthy, vibrant island Biosphere.

Our hedges, sod banks and verges:

- Provide safe corridors for our wildlife to move around the Island; they are often some of the only remaining areas of semi-natural habitat in towns, villages and agricultural land;
- Are home to a variety of insects, including natural predators of crop pests;
- Are a vital source of nectar for our pollinator species;
- Contain an abundance of native wildflowers including some legally protected species such as orchids;
- Are an important source of wild animal food throughout the year - containing berries, fruits, insects and leaves;
- Provide feeding, sheltering, basking and breeding sites for legally protected viviparous lizards, and foraging and sheltering habitat for protected common frogs;
- Can contain mature trees with cracks, crevices and hollows suitable for roosting bats;
- Provide ecosystem services including carbon storage and sequestration, erosion and water control, wind reduction and pollution reduction.
- Are an intrinsic and beautiful part of the Manx landscape, which contribute to the health and wellbeing of the entire Island population.