



Natural Capital Assessment Partnership
(previously the Habitats Biodiversity Audit)

Hedgerows - Wild Wonders of Warwickshire



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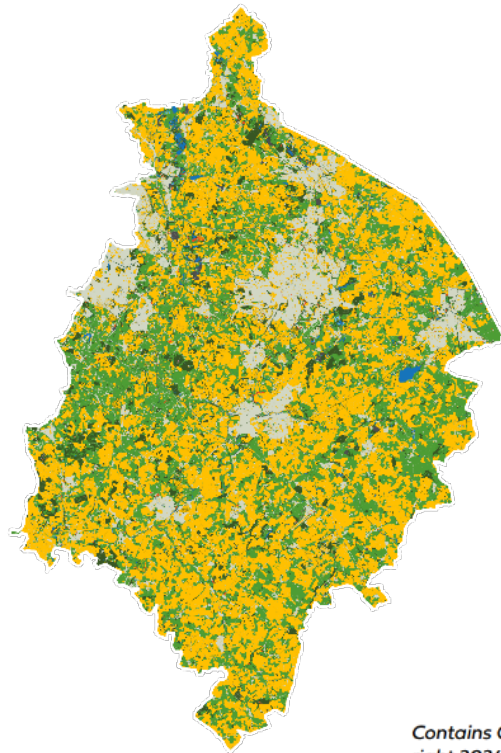
NCAP Overview

- Natural Capital Assessment Partnership (NCAP)
- 30 years old!
- Partnership of 9 organisations:
 - Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
 - 8 regional local authorities



Credit Alex Harwood from Unsplash

NCAP Overview



Phase I Habitat & Code

- A - Woodland and Scrub
- B - Grassland and Marsh
- C - Tall Herb and Fern
- D - Heathland
- E - Mire
- F - Swamp, Marginal and Inundation
- G - Open Water
- I - Rock Exposure and Waste
- J - Cultivated and Disturbed Land
- Unsurveyed Area

- Core remit = survey and gather habitats data
- Phase 1 habitat survey developed by Joint Nature Conservation Committee

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Satellite data



Local Wildlife Sites

- 2nd key aspect of NCAP team work
- Team survey sites with high wildlife value



Local Wildlife Sites

- Non-statutory sites with high wildlife value unlike SSSIs
- Comprehensive set of sites valuable locally for nature conservation
- Some protection from development in local plans
- 694 Local Wildlife Sites



Credit April Webb

State of Habitats



- Habitats baseline
- Extent / rarity of different habitats
- Overall diversity
- Protected sites

<https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/state-habitats>

Hedgerow Statistics



- 10,377km hedgerow across the region!

(Would stretch quarter of the way around the earth!!)
- 99km = species-rich hedgerow

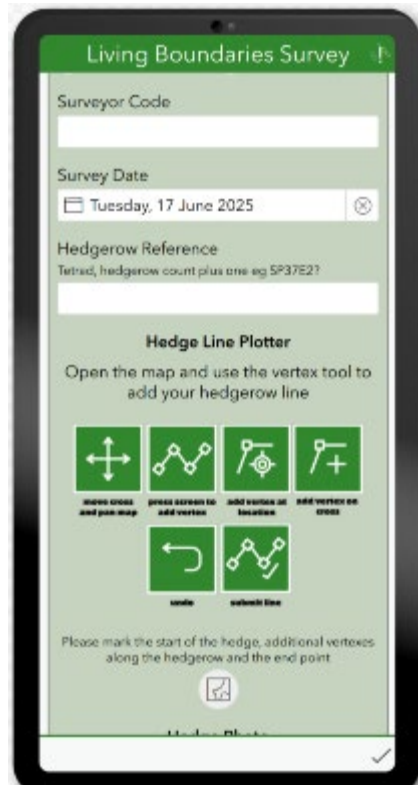
Hedgerow Statistics



Credit Sarah Barnsley

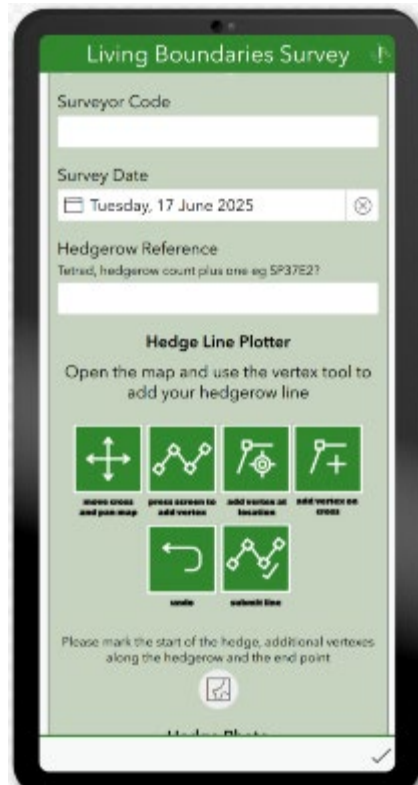
- Not currently being updated.
- Hedgerows as a habitat can change rapidly.

Community Survey



- Online hedgerow survey form
- Survey 123 app
- Defra Hedgerow Survey / People's Trust for Endangered Species Great British Hedgerow Survey

Community Survey



- South Warwickshire Action for Nature Network (SWAN)
- Expand surveying programme
- Hedgerow survey volunteers
- Looking for people willing to have volunteers survey hedgerows on their land

How will we use the data?



Credit Sarah Barnsley

- Update Phase 1 habitats
- Identify potential Local Wildlife Sites
- Ground-truth remote sensing data
- Share externally
- Identify appropriate management

A dirt path winds through a dense, lush hedge of various green plants and trees. The path is narrow and appears to be made of dirt and small stones. The vegetation is thick and vibrant green, with some purple flowers visible in the lower part of the hedge. The path leads towards a brighter area in the distance, suggesting an opening or a clearing. The overall scene is a natural, somewhat overgrown garden or woodland path.

Why hedges???

Credit April Webb

Hedge Trees



- Managed separately from shrub layer
- Woodland component
- 2230km hedgerow with trees across Warwickshire



2000 deadwood-
dependent
invertebrates in the UK

(Woodland Trust, 2009)

Birds



- Mixture of hedge types / structures = greater bird abundance and diversity.

(Hinsley and Bellamy, 2000)

Birds



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(Hinsley and Bellamy, 2000)

- Whitethroats use hedges about 1.5m tall.
- Bullfinches / turtledoves use taller hedges (4m+)

(Hedgelink, 2013)

Reptiles



- Food, shelter, moving through landscape
- Hibernate at hedge base
- Bask on south side of hedge
- Tussocky grass

(Hedgelinek, 2013)

Hedgerow Density



- 10km hedge / km² = optimal density for wildlife.

(Staley et al., 2023)

- 5.6km / km² across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

Summary



Credit Christine Barnsley

- Hedges hugely important for wildlife
- Want structural diversity, e.g. hedge trees / margin / different hedge heights & widths
- Rotational management short term and long term
- Opportunities to be involved in hedge surveying

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