



# EDGTON *Nature Recovery* PLAN

Simple steps to create and enhance wildlife habitats in our village

## Food

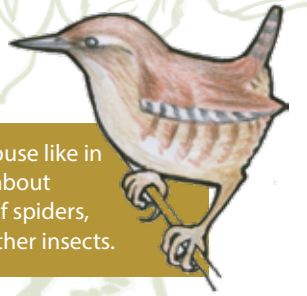
- Grow a succession of flowering plants suitable for pollinators
- Provide different sorts of food for birds and hedgehogs
- Leave plants to go to seed
- Grow shrubs and trees that have autumn/winter berries
- Grow fruiting trees - apples, pears, damsons, cherry, hazel and crab apple
- Rotate hedge cutting so your hedge can provide autumn/winter fruit



The Yellowhammer is a hedgerow specialist nesting low to the ground feeding mainly on insects and the small seeds of wildflowers.



Goldfinches benefit from the untidy gardener feeding on the seeds of thistles and teasels.



A wren can be mouse like in the way it pokes about looking for prey of spiders, caterpillars and other insects.

## Shelter

- Put up nest boxes for garden birds and summer visitors and boxes for mammal and bats
- Leave wood piles
- Stone walls create good habitats for insects and lizards
- Grow climbing plants up your walls
- Plant trees
- Leave untidy areas, including nettles and brambles, in the garden
- Leave garden perennials uncut for overwintering insects
- Create dead hedges of your hedge trimmings
- Have an open compost heap



The Poplar Hawkmoth is the most common hawkmoth and comes readily to light. It is unmistakable as it sits with its lower wings pushed up behind the top wings.



Burying beetles are an important part of the recycling process as they bury decaying animals and lay their eggs in the carcasses.



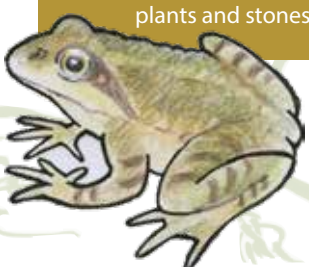
Wood mice have a wide diet that includes seeds, fruit and nuts but equally they are an important part of the foodchain for other species such as owls.



Stoats are secretive creatures living in stone walls and log piles. They are fierce hunters and can catch mammals larger than themselves.



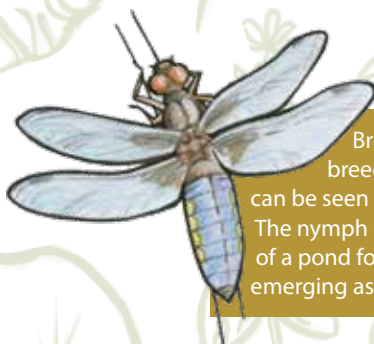
Hedgehogs need somewhere to overwinter and your compost heap or pile of leafmould could be the perfect place.



Frogs need a shallow pond to lay their eggs. Tadpoles have tiny teeth which they use to scrape the algae off plants and stones.

## Water

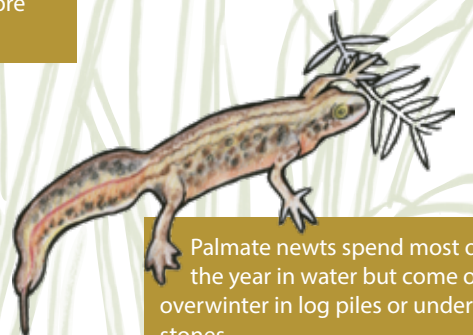
- Bird baths
- Ponds of all sizes - shallow for insects, container ponds, wildlife ponds
- Boggy areas if possible
- Streams and springs



Broad bodied chasers breed in ponds and males can be seen guarding their territory. The nymph can live in the bottom of a pond for several years before emerging as an adult.



Nettles are the favoured food of red admiral butterflies and the adults feed on things like buddleja and ripe fruit.



Palmate newts spend most of the year in water but come out to overwinter in log piles or under stones.



## PLANTING

The idea is to have suitable flowering plants for the first emerging creatures such as white tailed bumblebee queens, which can come out of hibernation in late January, with successive flowering plants to sustain insect populations until late autumn.

- \* Early - Hellebore, Early flowering honeysuckle, Winter heather, Aubretia, Primroses, Bluebell, Grape hyacinth, Pulmonaria, Violet, Aconites, Alyssum, Floxgloves, Flowering currant, Dandelion
- \* Mid season - Honeysuckle, Marjoram, Sage, Thyme, Lavender, Mallow, Toadflax, Verbena, Wallflowers, Russian sage, Hollyhocks, Rugarosa or single roses, Geraniums, Betony, Buddleja, Teasels
- \* Late season - Coneflower, Golden rod, Ivy, Sedum, Michaelmas daisies, Sunflower, Red Valerian

## MEADOWS

Meadows can be of any size and support all kinds of flowering plants for pollinating insects. They need poor soil so hay cuts need to be removed.

- \* Create a meadow of whatever size - through green manure, reseeding, encouraging what's already there
- \* Meadow species - orchids, campion, ragged robin, bedstraws, yellow rattle, hawk bit, meadow buttercups, pignut, oxeye daisies, knapweed, birds foot trefoil, bugle, bush vetch, common sorrel, field scabious, yarrow
- \* Manage by late cutting and collecting/removing the cuttings
- \* Enjoy spotting the wildlife - bumblebees, butterflies, grasshoppers, silver Y moths

## ORCHARDS

- \* Plant fruit trees - apples, pears, plums, damsons, quince. The trees will supply flowers for pollinators, left over fruit food for winter visitors such as fieldfares and redwings, dropped fruit for mice and voles and all manor of insects.

## CONNECTIVITY

Connecting habitats through wildlife corridors helps support sustainable populations which otherwise might become isolated or suffer from a lack of food.

- \* All areas can be managed to create wildlife corridors - gardens, verges, common land, farmland
- \* Hedgehog highways - holes or tunnels in fences
- \* Mixed native hedgerows around boundaries
- \* Stone walls
- \* Dead hedges
- \* Rows of trees and shrubs

## MAIN PRINCIPLES

- \* Don't be too tidy - life thrives in untidy areas
- \* Connectivity - we can all play a part in linking habitat areas with trees and hedgerows
- \* Making space for wildlife brings more wildlife
- \* Don't use chemical weedkillers
- \* Take time to sit and look - you will learn a lot about the wildlife living and visiting your patch if you take time to look
- \* Get involved with local conservation groups

## HEDGES AND VERGES

Good hedges and verges provide food and shelter for insects, small mammals and many birds.

- \* Plant new hedges with a mix of native species - hawthorn, hazel, guilder rose, blackthorn, holly, wild rose, honeysuckle, crab apple
- \* Manage hedges with a three year cutting cycle to create the best habitat and winter food source
- \* Road verges and hedge edges - encourage wild flowers by managing hogweed and other invasive species, do a late cut after seed has developed creating long linear meadows
- \* Leave some wild areas in the garden to manage in the same way for things like nettles and brambles

## MORE INFORMATION

[www.marchesmeadowgroup.com](http://www.marchesmeadowgroup.com)

[www.middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk](http://www.middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk)

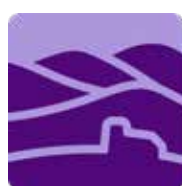
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/carding-mill-valley-on-the-long-mynd/stepping-stones-project-at-carding-mill-valley](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/shropshire-staffordshire/carding-mill-valley-on-the-long-mynd/stepping-stones-project-at-carding-mill-valley)

[www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk](http://www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk)

[www.wildlifetrusts.org/how-manage-hedgerow-wildlife](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/how-manage-hedgerow-wildlife)

[www.severnrivertrust.com](http://www.severnrivertrust.com)

[www.butterfly-conservation.org/moths](http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/moths)



**Shropshire  
Hills  
National  
Landscape**

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[www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk/help-to-look-after/shropshire-hills-landscape-trust](http://www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk/help-to-look-after/shropshire-hills-landscape-trust)