

LYME REGIS HEDGEROWS PROJECT REPORT, JUNE 2024



About the project.

Little Green Change (a non-profit social enterprise based in Lyme Regis, specialising in environmental education) was approached by Dorset Climate Action Network about delivering a hedgerows education and surveying project in the town, funded by Lyme Regis Town Council. It was agreed that Little Green Change would use their existing local contacts to engage both schools in Lyme Regis (The Woodroffe School, and St Michael's CE Primary School), as well as organising 3 sessions open to the community, and a session open to the Scouts.

Outcomes.

Clare Matheson, Little Green Change's Founder and Director, led the project. She wrote and designed a co-branded schools assembly presentation covering the benefits of hedgerows, which was checked and approved by Dorset CAN. This included information on the benefits of hedgerows to wildlife, climate change, and human health. Clare then delivered this presentation at both The Woodroffe School and at St Michael's CE Primary School.

Clare also organised and promoted hedgerow surveying sessions across Dorset CAN's contact list; through social media; through 4 posters she created, which were put up in various locations across Lyme Regis (list included); through Eventbrite booking pages, as well as through a dedicated project page on Little Green Change's website: littlegreenchange.com/hedgerows.

Dorset CAN also promoted the sessions and project through their e-news mailing list and social media pages.

As a result of this project, there have been additional local residents sign up to receive news about the Great Big Dorset Hedge project.

Feedback was gained from each assembly and surveying session, with comments included in this report.

Project benefits.

These included opportunities for local residents and children to learn about hedgerows and to engage in surveying as an activity; to relate this to their own environment and health; to learn about Dorset CAN's Great Big Dorset Hedge project and the surveying sessions running across Dorset; to sign up to Dorset CAN's e-newsletter and Little Green Change's e-newsletter, to find out about Little Green Change's free environmental education services and actions in schools and across communities, and to recognise the support of Lyme Regis Town Council in funding this environmental project.

Lessons learnt.

The Woodroffe School was particularly keen to participate, with 20 students and 2 staff members attending the surveying session along the River Lim on 14th May 2024. They have expressed an interest in organising a planting session later this year, filling the gaps in hedgerows on their school site using saplings left over from a previous planting session, which will help the students progress their learning.

The community surveying sessions had a total of 7 adults and 2 children attending (2 additional adults failed to show up at one session). The feedback gained from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with 100% reporting they enjoyed the session they'd attended, had learnt something new, and would recommend the session to other people interested in hedgerows. Their comments are included in this report.

As a funded project focussed on schools, we feel we successfully engaged young people.

The Great Big Dorset Hedge project has gained a lot of press coverage since it launched, so lots of people in Lyme Regis and across Dorset, and beyond, are aware of it. Ensuring future project activities are effectively promoted to their existing database ensures access to hundreds of people on their mailing list. Six adults opted in to Dorset CAN's Great Big Dorset Hedge mailing list as a direct result of interacting with this project (through the project feedback form).

Julie Leah, Dorset CAN, led the first community surveying session on 4th May, with Clare Matheson in attendance. Thereafter, Clare Matheson led all the other community and school sessions. Due to Julie's schedule, she was only able to attend the first event, therefore it was beneficial that Clare has a general knowledge of hedgerows, so questions from attendees could be answered accurately.

Thank you.

A huge thank you to Lyme Regis Town Council, and to members of the Environment Committee, for funding this valuable education project, thereby recognising the importance of hedgerows as vital wildlife habitats and food sources, as well as their benefits in relation to natural flood mitigation and air quality improvement.

Surveying session updates:

The Woodroffe School.

Organiser attendance: Clare Matheson, Little Green Change.

Surveying session along the River Lim: Tuesday 14th May 2024, 1.20pm-2.20pm

School contact: Jim Johnson-Hills.

Hedgerows lunchtime assembly delivered on Wednesday 15th May 2024 at The Woodroffe School, 1:30pm-2:30pm, by Clare Matheson, Little Green Change.

Cubs (part of the Scouts group).

Organiser attendance: Clare Matheson, Little Green Change.

Assembly presentation and surveying took place on Thursday 9th May, 6:00pm-7:15pm.

Cubs contact: Fi Siddiqui.

St Michael's School.

Whole school assembly took place on Friday 7th June at 1:00pm - 1:30pm.

School contact: Nicole (admin team).

Community surveying session on Saturday 4th May 2024, 11:00am-12midday.

Organiser attendance: Clare Matheson, Little Green Change, and Julie Leah, Dorset CAN.

Sign up attendance:

- 1) Adrian Wood.
- 2) Angela Spilsbury.
- 3) Dean Smith.
- 4) Sophia Smith, age 10.
- 5) Isla Smith, age 8.
- 6) Kate Roche.

Community surveying session on Tuesday 14th May 2024, 1:30pm - 2:30pm.

Organiser attendance: Clare Matheson, Little Green Change.

Sign up attendees:

- 1) 20 students from The Woodroffe School joined Clare Matheson and 2 Woodroffe adult staff members (Jim Johnson-Hills and Cora Wilkins) surveying hedgerow along the River Lim. School contact: Jim Johnson-Hills.

Community surveying session on Wednesday 29th May 2024, 10:00am-11:00am.

Sign-up attendees:

- 1) Alice Ripley.
- 2) Monika Ripley.
- 3) Diane Barrett.

Cancelled or no-shows: Imogen Hovil and Buba Smaldon.

Participation data:

Saturday 4th May 2024.

Attendees (excluding Clare Matheson and Julie Leah) = 2 children, 4 adults.

Thursday 9th May 2024.

Attendees (excluding Clare Matheson) = 17 children, 5 adults.

100% of the feedback forms reported the children had learnt something new.

Tuesday 14th May 2024.

Attendees (excluding Clare Matheson) = 20 children and 2 adults.

100% of the feedback forms reported the children had learnt something new.

Wednesday 15th May 2024.

Attendees (excluding Clare Matheson) = 1 child and 3 adults.

100% of the feedback forms reported the children had learnt something new.

Wednesday 29th May 2024.

Attendees (excluding Clare Matheson) = 3 adults.

100% of the feedback forms reported the children had learnt something new.

Friday 7th June 2024.

Attendees (excluding Clare Matheson) = 57 children.

Feedback form from St Michael's CE Primary School stated the children had learnt something new.

SUBTOTAL = 97 children and 16 adults. (One adult attended 2 Woodroffe School sessions above, so has only been counted once.)

Posters were distributed by Little Green Change to the following locations:

- 1) Uplyme Village shop (Esso) on their post office board.
- 2) Lyme Bay Medical Centre (I left one with the receptionist who agreed to put it up).
- 3) Lyme Regis Town Council's office (they have said they will put them up in the 2 notice boards they manage).
- 4) The Galley Cafe (their fridge as you enter).
- 5) Tesco (their community notice board).
- 6) Lyme Regis Baptist Church (this wasn't open at the time, so I left one in their postbox).
- 7) Lyme Regis Library.
- 8) Uplyme Village hall (this wasn't open at the time, so I left one in their postbox).
- 9) On the post directly outside Mrs Ethelston's School's entrance gate.
- 10) Uplyme Church.
- 11) Costa's community notice board.

Social media posts added to groups including the Lyme Regis Community Facebook page, Sustainable Axminster Facebook Page, Your Local News (Devon, Dorset and Somerset) Facebook page, Devon Hedge Group Facebook page, and Little Green Change's X, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages.

Comments included:

On social media:

"That's great to read, learning new life skills and about nature around us is definitely a positive experience." - Debbie Conibere, local resident (posted on Lyme Regis Community's Facebook page).

From feedback forms:

- "[I learnt] how much different habitat and trees, etc, for a hedge." - Adrian Wood, local resident.
- "[I learnt] more about the types of trees, habitats, importance of hedgerows in urban areas linking to the countryside....very informative." "Very informative and enjoyable.. Thank you very much."- Kate Roche, local resident.
- "Understanding how to grade hedges, identify plants and trees, and what's needed to encourage wildlife." "Very enjoyable.. I would be happy to do it again and for longer." - Angela Spilsbury, local resident.
- "Really enjoyed the survey. Julia was very knowledgeable and explained things clearly." - Dean Smith, local resident.
- "Fantastic, engaging session. Thank you." - Fi Siddiqui, Cubs Leader.
- "[I learnt] how important hedgerows are" & "I loved all the facts."- Olivia and Mabel, Cubs.
- "I learnt about plants that grow in hedgerows." - Chanie, Elijah and Daniel, Cubs.
- "[I learnt] bushes are homes for animals." - Zlata and Eleanor, Cubs.
- "[I learnt] that hedgerows can help climate change and soil erosion." "It was fun and I enjoyed measuring the width and length [of the hedgerow] and finding insects and animals."- Aliana, Cub.
- "[I learnt] that hedgerows are important." - Harrison, Ollie, Hugo, Cubs.
- "[I learnt] hedgerows are important for food" & "birds nest in hedges." - Rocco & Kaicee, Cubs.
- "[I learnt about] different types of hedges, and the heights and width of hedges. I had a lot of fun and it was very interesting." - Amber, student at The Woodroffe School.
- "[I learnt] how to start a hedgerow, good plants to use, how long they take to grow, what a good hedge looks like. Excellent session. Thank you" - Jo, The Woodroffe School.
- "I learnt about Yew trees and different management of hedges. Most appreciated. Thanks." - Paloma, The Woodroffe School.
- "[I learnt about] different micro climates of trees. It was fun to learn about hedgerows and trees." - Unnamed student at The Woodroffe School.
- "[I learnt] how to hedge survey, looking closely and identifying hedge species." "Worth doing, especially the invasive species being dealt with." - Monika Ripley, local resident.
- "[The children learnt] that the hedgerow is a home for many types of animal." - Natalie Townley, Deputy Head Teacher at St Michael's C of E Primary School.

Additional images include:



HELP SURVEY A HEDGEROW IN LYME REGIS



Can you volunteer 1 hour of your time to help restore a local hedgerow wildlife corridor? Families and students welcome.

littlegreenchange.com/hedgerows

little green change Dorset CAN Climate Action Network Project funded by: Lyme Regis Town Council

THE IMPORTANCE OF HEDGEROWS

- Included:
- What is a hedgerow?
 - Why are hedgerows important?
 - Protecting against climate change.
 - Benefits to people.
 - Maintaining healthy hedgerows.
 - How you can help.
 - Contact details.

littlegreenchange.com/hedgerows
www.dorsetcan.org/hedge



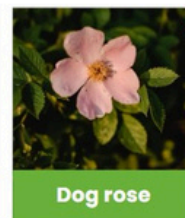
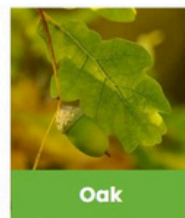
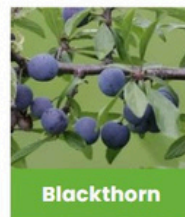
What is a hedgerow?

A hedgerow is a line of shrubs and trees that have been planted close together and trained, pruned and managed in height and width to form a barrier, or to mark the boundary of an area. They are often found along footpaths, roads, separating fields and gardens, and along railways.

Typical species of trees and shrubs typically found in a countryside hedgerow include hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, field maple, hazel, oak, ash, crab apple, rowan and holly.

Rambling and climbing plants typically found in a hedgerow include bramble, honeysuckle and dog rose.

FACT: The oldest hedgerow in England is over 900 years old!



View the whole assembly presentation here:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGAitu53ko/jZIU0EW2pnjjxBJHOxQ6RA/view?utm_content=DAGAitu53ko&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=editor#1

Press coverage gained includes articles in:

- 1) The Bridport and Lyme Regis News (pictured below). Website link: <https://www.bridportnews.co.uk/news/24227454.little-green-change-launches-community-hedgerow-project/>
- 2) The Midweek Herald (pictured below). Website link: midweekherald.co.uk/news/24231703.great-big-dorset-hedge-project-launched-lyme-regis/
- 3) West Dorset Magazine, May edition (pictured below).
- 4) Turn Lyme Green's April newsletter, released on 28th April.
- 5) Little Green Change's April newsletter. Website link: littlegreenchange.com/news



New hedge project launched

A new hedgerows project has been launched by the Lyme Regis-based environmental education organisation Little Green Change, and Dorset Climate Action Network (Dorset CAN), as part of Dorset CAN's Great Big Dorset Hedge project.

Funded by Lyme Regis Town Council, there will be community hedgerow surveying sessions and class resources being made available to local schools and groups.

Little Green Change's Founder and Director, Clare Matheson said: "Not only is it a great opportunity to teach younger generations and local residents about the benefits hedgerows bring to wildlife, climate change, flood prevention and improved air quality, but it also provides opportunities for interested children, students and adults to gain new surveying skills, and to meet new people through volunteering."

Some of England's hedgerows date back to medieval times, yet many have been lost over the last century. A countryside survey revealed there were 511,000km of managed hedgerows in 1984. By 2007, around 109,000km of these had been lost.

■ For details visit littlegreenchange.com/hedgerows

Community hedgerow surveying sessions are: Tuesday, May 14 1.30pm-2.30pm, Wednesday, May 29, 10am-11am.






Purchases:

- 7 x Wooden clipboards. Supplier: Viking. Cost: £11.74
- Purchase of printer cartridge pack x 1. Supplier: Cartridge People. Cost: £61.70 (including £10.28 in VAT).

Travel by Clare Matheson:

- Return trip from DT7 3TD (Clare Matheson's home) to Lyme Regis, DT7 3PG (delivery of posters to various locations) on 24th April 2024.
- Return trip from DT7 3TD (Clare Matheson's home) to Lyme Regis, DT7 3AT (hedgerow surveying session starting point) on 4th May 2024.
- Return trip from DT7 3TD (Clare Matheson's home) to Scouts Hut, Lyme Regis (Cubs assembly and surveying session) on 9th May 2024.
- Return trip from DT7 3TD (Clare Matheson's home) to Lyme Regis, DT7 3AT (hedgerow surveying session starting point) on 14th May 2024
- Return trip from DT7 3TD (Clare Matheson's home) to The Woodroffe School, DT7 3LX (hedgerow assembly) on 15th May 2024.
- Return trip from DT7 3TD (Clare Matheson's home) to Lyme Regis, DT7 3AT (hedgerow surveying session starting point) on 29th May 2024.
- Return trip from DT7 3TD (Clare Matheson's home) to St Michael's CE Primary School, Lyme Regis, DT7 3DY (hedgerow assembly) on 7th June 2024.
- TO FOLLOW: Attendance at Lyme Regis Town Council's Environment Committee meeting on 26th June 2024, to provide a verbal report on this project.

	<p>1. The completed survey forms MUST include a single Adams code for each hedge (any qualifying comments go into the comments column).</p>
	<p>2. The survey maps MUST be amended to show only the exact same labelled hedges as are shown in the finished survey form. Add or subtract hedges to the issued map as needed.</p>
	<p>3. As an optional extra, observations can be made marking any notable feature on the map with a star. The 'notable feature' (a potential project, a veteran tree, a cause for concern, whatever...) should be supported by an explanatory comment (separate from the survey form) using up to 40 words.</p>
<p>Date</p>	<p>Date of survey e.g. 08/09/22</p>
<p>Trail/Entity</p>	<p>e.g. 'Jubilee Trail', or 'Sadborow Estate' etc.</p>
<p>Parish Name</p>	<p>e.g. Lyme Regis.</p>
<p>Survey Team</p>	<p>List ALL the names of surveyors</p>
<p>Numbering Hedges on trails</p>	<p>Use nearest 250 metre marker number plus a letter - e.g. 32C / REMEMBER TO MARK THE SAME HEDGE LABEL ON YOUR SURVEY MAP</p>
<p>Numbering Hedges away from trails</p>	<p>Use sequential numbers that make sense to the landowner of the entity involved / REMEMBER TO MARK THE SAME HEDGE LABEL ON YOUR SURVEY MAP</p>
<p>Average height (in metres)</p>	<p>Measured in metres, excluding in-hedge trees (x.x)</p>
<p>Average width (in metres)</p>	<p>Measured in metres, excluding overhanging growth (x.x)</p>
<p>Hedge Species</p>	<p>Mark each found to be present with a '#', to record a dominant species you can optionally use '# #'. Do not use ticks, crosses or other symbols</p>
<p>OTHER</p>	<p>When finding a hedge species not listed, mark other as '#' in the 'OTHER' column and explain in the last 'additional comments' column</p>
<p>In Hedge Trees</p>	<p>If there are many, estimate the average spacing and list species e.g. '1 per 30 metres, oak, ash, beech'</p>
<p></p>	<p>If there are few, list each species with number e.g. 'oak x 2, ash x 3, holly x 1'</p>
<p>Land use each side</p>	<p>Describe the land use on each side of the hedge e.g. 'pasture / arable' or 'roadside / arable' or 'woodland / pasture' or 'residential / pasture', etc</p>
<p>Fenced</p>	<p>Mark with '#' if a wire fence is present, leave blank if not</p>
<p>Ditched</p>	<p>Mark with '#' if a ditch is present, leave blank if not</p>
<p>Banked (shown in metres)</p>	<p>Insert the height of the bank in metres if there is a bank, leave blank if there is no bank (x.x)</p>
<p>Base Canopy height (metres)</p>	<p>The base canopy is the lowest average leafy growth on the woody stem structure. Measure its height from the base of the stem (x.x)</p>
<p>Double planted</p>	<p>Mark with '#' if there are two distinct plantings (often one on each side of a bank), leave blank if not</p>
<p>Significant gaps (in metres or as a %)</p>	<p>Include an estimate in metres of the amount of gapping up that would make the hedge a completely continuous hedge again. It may be easier to express this as a percentage of the total hedge length</p>
<p>Adams Condition Score</p>	<p>Refer to the infographics - mark with a number (1 to 10), or 11 for a 'fedge' if it's a permanent fence with no evidence of a planted hedge. Do not include the H seen in PTES support materials.</p>

Beech
Fagus sylvatica

Leaves green, brown or purple

Dog Rose
Rosa canina

Trailing stems, hook-shaped thorns

Hazel
Corylus avellana

Twigs pale brown, catkins in spring

Laurel
Prunus laurocerasus

Large glossy green leaves

Bramble
Rubus fruticosus

Sharp prickles on stem

Elder
Sambucus nigra

New twigs pale yellow

Holly
Ilex aquifolium

Not all leaves toothed

Privet
Ligustrum species

Narrow shiny green leaves

Blackthorn
Prunus spinosa

Hawthorn
Crataegus species

Ivy
Hedera helix

Yew
Taxus baccata

Beech
Fagus sylvatica

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