

## ***LIFELINES: Planting hedgerows to connect people and nature***



**Are you a farmer or landowner interested in planting new hedgerows?  
Are you short of time or labour?**

The aims of this project are to enable:

- Large-scale hedgerow planting on farms across England
- Long-term relationships between farmers and groups of volunteers
- Deeper engagement with the natural world for people living in towns and cities.

The project seeks farmers who want to plant new hedgerows, are short of time or finances to do so, and are interested in developing ongoing connections with well-trained groups of volunteers. If you already have a grant for hedgerows, and would like volunteer help to do the planting, we'd also love to hear from you.

**Farms interested in participating in the project will be provided with:**

- 20 - 30 trained and supervised volunteers for a planting weekend, planting new hedgerow as per your requirements;
- Free whips for up to 1000m of hedgerows (as required)
- Advice if required for hedgerow site planning
- Tools and equipment for volunteers provided
- Time efficient - we know you're busy and will keep your time commitment to an absolute minimum!

After the initial year, it is hoped that farmers and groups will remain connected, and farms can use volunteers for ongoing maintenance or new projects by arrangement.

**Farms will need to provide:**

- A map of planned hedgerow (needs to connect to 0.2 hectares of woodland, or to existing hedgerows that connect to woodland).
- A warm welcome to groups, and a basic farm tour or introduction
- Toilet facilities and basic refreshments
- Preparation of the ground in advance

## **How will it work?**

Each farm will be paired with two trained volunteer leaders. They will discuss the plan for the weekend with you in advance, and will be responsible for managing their volunteers on the day. If required, there can also be an expert on the day to deal with any issues, and to ensure that the work is being carried out correctly, or you can do this yourself if you prefer.

Groups will stay in nearby accommodation, if they are not local. If you are able to provide basic accommodation or camping, or any other services, such as food or educational activities, please let us know.

## **Who are the volunteers?**

Volunteers will be in pre-formed groups. They may be faith groups (across all traditions), or groups of interest such as gardening groups. They will all be over 18 and have an existing relationship with the group leader. They will be there because they want to make a positive contribution and deepen their connection with land or nature. They are giving their time for free, so they should be welcomed warmly and have an enjoyable time, but they will also be expecting to work hard.

## **Project timeline**

### April:

Sign up and submit request for whips (length of your desired new hedgerow, species preference if relevant). If you require advice or a walk-around in advance of this just let us know.

### September:

Phone call / zoom to meet your matched volunteer leaders

### Sept /Oct

Prepare ground

### Nov - Feb (a weekend agreed at your convenience)

Receive whips (up to 2 days before volunteers arrive)

Host volunteering weekend

If you have baseline wildlife surveys, or are interested in these being carried out, let us know.