• The stump of the tree is also still alive and coppices. i.e. it sends up new shoots.
• The laid stems (pleachers) are held in place by wooden stakes, which are secured by binders. Binders are long flexible tree stems (usually a coppice product).
• Laying the hedge thickens up the base, and the shoots that grow from the exposed stump also serves to thicken the hedge.
• After several years the pleachers die off, but the coppice shoots should be thick enough for laying again.
• Managing the hedge in this way prevents the hedgerow from becoming gappy, as well as providing a substantial barrier. The thickness of the regrowth benefits many species of wildlife such as birds and mammals by providing food, shelter and protection.
• There are many species of trees and shrubs that are suitable to plant in a new hedgerow, or to fill in gaps in an existing hedge.

Verges are usually linear grassland habitats, which can be a valuable wildlife resource, providing shelter and food for a variety of species. Verges can be important as plant species traditionally associated with unimproved grassland habitats have been squeezed to the margins due to intensive farming methods and new developments.

• Safety should be the priority when managing roadside verges. Authorised contractors should carry out the management work. Visibility for drivers should also be a priority.
• The planting of bulbs, garden plants and trees should be discouraged on road verges.
• Landscaped and intensively managed verges sown with fast growing grass mixes are not good for wildlife, and cost more to manage.
• If the verge is mainly grassland, then it should be managed as per the grassland section in this leaflet.

Verges

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Road verge next to the A23, which is full of wildflowers. Managed as a meadow.
**Sources**

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