

HELP FOR HEDGEHOGS

GLENWOOD PARK DEVELOPMENT- GLENWOOD FARM NEAR DEVON

Redrow Homes

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Small scale Permanent

Project overview

Small, square marked holes are being built into the new garden fences in Redrow's Glenwood Park development, at Glenwood Farm near Devon. The Hedgehog Highway concept was developed by People's Trust for Endangered Species and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society as a simple way of making gardens hedgehog-friendly. The small hole will allow hedgehogs to move between gardens while they forage for food without the restrictions of fences and walls. It forms part of a house building development and will cost no more than £500.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

The biodiversity conditions on site prior to the enhancement were an agricultural field and then regular grass gardens with fencing. By having the fencing in between and a reduced amount of hedging this meant that the pathway for hedgehogs to forage between gardens and suitable habitats was restricted.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

Hedgehog Awareness Week is organised by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society and aims to highlight the problems hedgehogs face and how you can help them. After being approached by a hedgehog champion within the local community, the opportunity became apparent for the development to implement this main project and pilot the new initiative following trials on other developments.

Redrow is very conscious of its biodiversity impact so innovative projects like the hedgehog highway's provide opportunities in our journey to becoming biodiversity positive on all of our developments.



An example of what the hedgehog highways look like within the development gardens (Image credit: Henry Johnson/Hedgehog Street).

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

To ensure the maximum benefits of the project are achieved careful consideration and liaising has been undertaken with People's Trust for Endangered Species when planning the project. One of the key benefits of this project is that it is replicable across our developments with the similarities in garden designs and the availability of information and literature from the People's Trust for Endangered Species. It is a simple yet innovative concept which can make a huge difference to the hedgehog community in the area and, with the signage in place on the fences, provides a long-term solution to the issue of hedgehog movement and foraging in urban areas. With it being estimated that between a third to a half of all hedgehogs have disappeared from Britain with impermeable fences being criticised as one of the main reasons for the decline, the encouragement of hedgehogs into people's gardens and onto the development should increase the biodiversity value of the development.

Workers and staff have been engaged in the project with those involved in the planning and designing of the fencing to those working in the sales centres promoting it to prospective buyers with handout leaflets to provide more information to people. The local community are also becoming engaged with those informed at the sales centre and the idea being brought to development by a local neighbouring resident concerned about the impact to hedgehogs.

For the adaption to closeboard fencing between gardens and signage the project as a whole has a minimal cost of no more than £500, which will make it easier to implement on a larger scale.



Hedgehog Hotel installed on Redrow site to promote the habitat of hedgehogs.

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

The installation of the project began with the approach from a concerned local resident who suggested the hedgehog highways. The People's Trust for Endangered Species were then contacted and after gaining an understanding of the requirements the changes were made in the planning and designs to incorporate and put in place the hedgehog highways into phase 2 of the development, with phase 1 being used to promote the hedgehog highways and provide leaflets of information to prospective buyers.

It is currently too early in the project to measure the increase of biodiversity, however, from previous similar projects on other developments we are sure that this will see similar if not better biodiversity gains on this larger scale project. There was also a positive reaction from the community to the project which is hoped will encourage more people to incorporate hedgehog highways into their own gardens. Going forward, this is something that is hoped to be rolled out onto more developments so, to aid in this happening, the projects would benefit from the hedgehog highways being incorporated into plans at an earlier stage.

The project team benefitted from taking part in the challenge as it gave them the chance to increase their knowledge on biodiversity and this can be incorporated into and, most importantly, benefit and add value to developments.



Photo Description: Pilot projects to find homes suitable for Hedgehogs on our developments have been very successful.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Hedgehog Awareness Week provided a perfect opportunity to engage Redrow employees and the local community on biodiversity. Completing a project where you can see biodiversity improve through every hedgehog highway put in provides fantastic motivation for future projects and the work we do on developments.