



Photo credit - Nic White

## PROJECT CASE STUDY : ENVIRONMENT

Projects that look after our natural environment, rivers and water.

### Warley Woods Community Trust - Healthy Hedges

Awarded **£2,059**

Warley Woods is a beautiful historic grade 2 listed parkland created by Samuel Galton Junior, which was saved for the community's use by Edwardian philanthropists as a public park back in 1906. The local community then stepped up once more, in 2004, and Warley Woods Community Trust has been managing its green space since then, taking full responsibility for its 100 acres of parkland, woodland and golf course.

The site has achieved Green Flag status for the last 16 years and its community members have voted it ten times into the list of the UK's favourite parks. While it's known for its trees - over 4,500 of them - where Warley Woods is lacking for nature is in that middle height of planting. Caring for their current small number of hedges and extending them is a very important part of ensuring space for biodiversity.

Our Community Fund award supported a project to rejuvenate an existing hedgerow and plant new areas of hedge which will create a properly secured boundary to one of the site's key areas for wildlife. It will use hedging species to encourage butterflies and moths by introducing caterpillar-friendly food plants, like wychelm, alder buckthorn, blackthorn, wild privet and honeysuckle.

As a space that is already important to the health and wellbeing of local people living in an urban environment, this enhancement will make Warley Woods a paradise for nature, too.



The Healthy Hedges project has allowed us to equip our dedicated volunteers with the hedgelaying skills (and tools) they will need to help us to manage our hedgerows for wildlife for years to come. This heritage craft creates vigorous growth which provides food and shelter for so much wildlife, and we've made a cracking start laying the hedgerow bordering The Wilderness. We've boosted the hedges biodiversity with different species that are great for butterflies, moths and other pollinators. Thanks to Severn Trent for making the Healthy Hedges project a reality!



**Doug Barber,**  
Conservation Manager

