



Hedgerow Management

18th February 2016

Alison Cross & Amanda Ingham



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Agenda

9am	Introductions
9.15am	The importance of hedgerows
9.45am	Hedgerow protection
10am	Hedgerow grants
10.10am	Coffee break
10.30am	Hedgerow Management Cycle and hedgerow management plans
11.30am	Putting it into practice
1pm	Close



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About the Trust

With the help of our members and donors, including legacies left to the Trust we have been able to buy and protect over 900 ha of land

Trust formed in 1961 with the aim to protect local wildlife and inspire people to love nature

Today we are proud to have over 27,000 members and 900 volunteers

Today we manage 49 reserves and land covering almost 1.1% of the area of Hampshire & the Isle of Wight

Between April 2013 and March 2015 we advised on over 14000 ha of land across the two counties

Last year we worked with 9272 children and young people through a variety of school, youth group and family sessions

We are one of 47 Wildlife Trusts covering the UK. Giving us real national influence whilst retaining our local knowledge and focus.

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The aim of the Trust has not changed from that day and we strive to protect local wildlife and inspire people to love nature.

We want to create bigger, better more joined up places for wildlife and people to thrive.

27,500 members is just 1.5% of the population of Hampshire and Isle of Wight so there is lots for us to do to get more people involved in protecting local wild life



The Importance of Hedgerows



© Nigel Adams, HedgeLink



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Why are hedgerows important?



- Landscape importance
- Cultural & historical importance
- Wildlife importance
- Importance for resource management



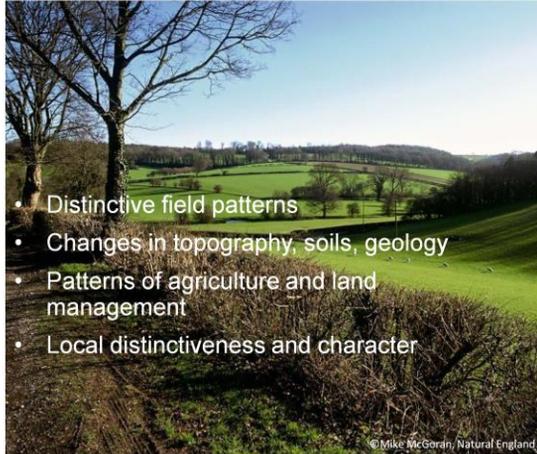
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The Countryside Survey 2007 estimated that there are 402,000km of managed hedgerow in England and a further 145000km of linear features such as relict hedges and lines of trees.

In the past hedgerows were essential for marking ownership boundaries, and for keeping livestock in or out of fields. These particular reasons for keeping hedges are now less relevant in many places. However, there are many other good reasons for looking after and valuing hedgerows.

Landscape importance



- Distinctive field patterns
- Changes in topography, soils, geology
- Patterns of agriculture and land management
- Local distinctiveness and character

© Mike McGorain, Natural England



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Hedgerows form a network over much of our countryside creating distinctive field patterns and providing a significant contribution to local distinctiveness. Hedgerows pick out changes in topography, soils and underlying geology, and define current, and often past, patterns of agriculture and other land use. Together with woods, roads and settlements, they give character to the landscape.

Cultural & historical importance

- Pre-enclosure = ancient hedgerow
- Enclosures Acts 1604 - 1914 over 5,200 enclosure Bills were enacted by Parliament which related to just over a fifth of the total area of England, amounting to some 6.8 million acres
- Over 200,000 miles of hedge planted between 1750 and 1850
- In 1946 there were an estimated 500,000 miles of hedgerow in England
- Pressure to increase food production after the Second World War led to a reduction in hedgerows
- Hedgerows now recognised as valuable and grants are available to encourage hedgerow planting and management



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Before people farmed, they were hunter-gatherers and the only hedgerows were dead hedges, constructed of thorns and sharpened branches for protection from attack.

Over time Bronze Age farmers cleared woodland to make fields. On occasions, strips of woodland were left to mark the boundaries. Where these remain they are classed as Ancient Hedgerows and are often on today's parish boundaries.

Planting of new hedgerows started around Roman times and continued on and off. Not everyone was happy with this arrangement - in the 12th Century, Richard the First issued an edict that hedges should not exceed 4 foot 6 inches tall both to allow free range to the royal deer and so that he could chase them on horseback!

The first Act promoting enclosure was passed in 1604. The Inclosure Acts were a series of United Kingdom Acts of Parliament which enclosed open fields and common land in the country, creating legal property rights to land that was previously considered common. This first act was followed by over 5,000 separate Enclosure Acts enclosing around 7 million acres of open fields or common land. Enclosure acts specified that the plots of land they created be enclosed by hedges and ditches and

subsequently maintained by the owner. Oliver Rackham estimates that over 200,000 miles of hedge were planted between 1750 and 1850 and that this was as much as had been planted in the previous 500 years.

Although some started calling for a reduction in the number of hedges even as enclosure was still taking place, the number of hedges did not start to decline significantly until after the Second World War. In 1946 there were an estimated 500,000 miles of hedge in England.

After the Second World War, government policy encouraged hedge removal to ensure that Britain was self-sufficient in food. Farmers encouraged to remove hedgerows & development of larger machinery. This loss has now been recognised and farmers are encouraged to plant and manage hedgerows.

An Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (ITE) survey of hedgerow changes revealed that between 1984 and 1990 hedgerow length in England had declined by 20% . Loss of managed hedgerows stabilised around mid 1990s

Picture = Assarted landscape – Fields cut out of woodlands

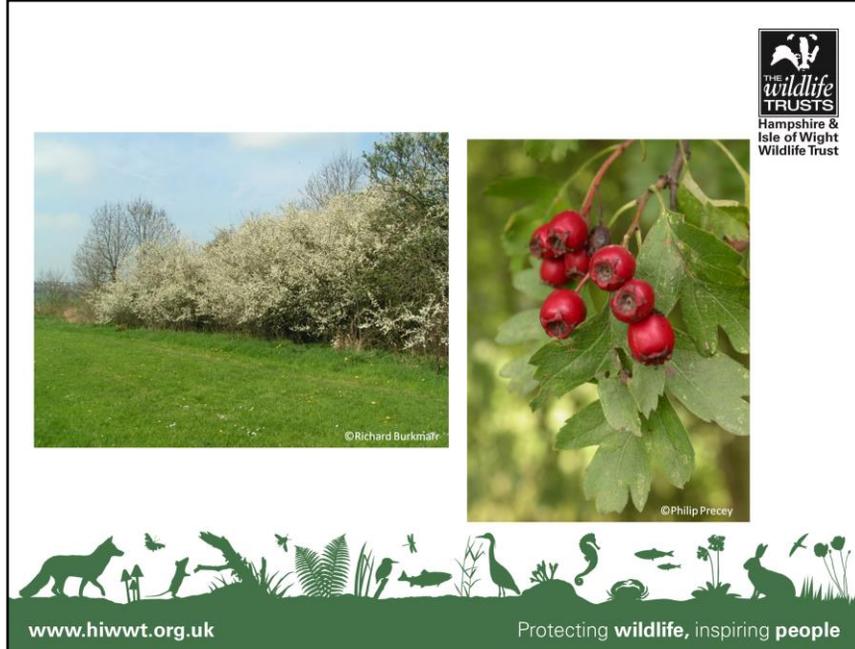
Wildlife importance



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- Hedgerows are very important for wildlife in their own right and those that consist predominantly of native trees and shrubs are recognised as a priority habitat for conservation within England's Biodiversity 2020 targets.
- The entire habitat of a hedgerow should be considered, not just the line of shrubs and mature trees but also the herbaceous growth at or near the base and any associated margin or ditch.
- Hedgerows provide food and shelter for many different species as well as providing a link between other habitats.
- While species rich hedges provide a greater diversity of food supply and habitat, wildlife is not restricted to just species rich hedges or ancient hedgerows and as such all hedgerows have benefit for wildlife.
- Hedgerows are so good for wildlife that 130 UK BAP priority species are associated with them.



Hedgerows provide food for invertebrates including pollinators with species such as blackthorn which provides an early nectar source. And berries later in the year provide food for mammals and birds.

Leaving hedge cutting as late as possible ensures that more of these resources are available overwinter.

Most hedgeplants do not flower on wood in the first year of growth. Trimming hedges on a two or three year rotation means that more fruit and flowers will be available to wildlife.



More than 20 of the butterfly species found in lowland Britain breed in hedgerows. This includes the brown hairstreak butterfly, a priority BAP species which lays its eggs exclusively on blackthorn.



21 priority BAP bird species associated with hedgerows (for 13 of these hedgerows are a primary habitat)

As many as 16 of the 19 farmland birds used by Government as indicators of the state of farmland wildlife are associated with hedgerows with 10 using them as a priority habitat.



Hedgerows provide food shelter and breeding sites for pollinators such as bees and hoverflies and for pest predators such as scorpion flies.



Hedgerows are an important habitat for dormice. Food throughout year. Also provide important linkages between woodland sites enabling dispersal and utilisation of smaller woodlands that would otherwise not be able to support a viable population on their own.



Hedgerows also provide an important feature for bats. Bats use linear features such as hedgerows and woodland edges to commute between roosting and feeding sites. They also provide a foraging habitat.

Importance for resource management



- Preventing soil loss from fields
- Reducing pollutant input to watercourses
- Regulating water supply for crops
- Help reduce rate of water flow in catchments

©Durham Hedgerow Partnership



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- Hedgerows can play an important role in helping to conserve essential natural resources such as soil and water, and in helping to prevent pollution.
- Hedgerows can be very effective at preventing loss of soil from fields
 - through reducing wind erosion (not so relevant to this area – more on lighter soils – Cambridgeshire etc)
 - or through acting as a barrier to water-borne run-off.
- Hedgerows also play a valuable role in reducing the amount of polluting fertilisers, pesticides and sediment that reach watercourses (although not recommended to use them as a buffer, should be buffered from field operations themselves!)
- Hedgerows can be very effective at regulating water supply for crops. By decreasing wind speed over the ground surface, hedgerows reduce water loss through evaporation. Also, because of their deep roots, hedgerows remove water faster from the soil than crops during periods of excessive rainfall.
- Together with woods, hedges reduce the rate of flow of water within catchments, so help to reduce flooding downstream.



Hedgerows are protected under various pieces of legislation and it is worth being aware of this protection as sometime sit may affect the hedgerow management that you would like to undertake.

Hedgerow protection - The Hedgerow Regulations 1997



The Hedgerow Regulations 1997

- If you want to remove a hedgerow (or part of a hedgerow) you will need to apply to your LPA in writing before you do so. "Removal" includes acts which could result in the destruction of a hedgerow.
- The LPA has 42 days to respond to your written notice to remove a hedgerow. They can issue:
 - a hedgerow retention notice - if the hedge is 'important' and must be kept
 - a written notice giving permission to remove the hedgerow in the way proposed
- Contravention of the Regulations is a criminal offence, punishable in some cases in the Magistrates' Court by a fine of up to £5000.



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The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 protect hedgerows from being removed or otherwise destroyed.

The regulations don't apply to hedgerows within the curtilage of, or making the boundary of the curtilage of, a dwelling house.

Hedgerow protection - The Hedgerow Regulations 1997



Important Hedgerows

- The Hedgerow Regulations set out criteria for the LPA to use in assessing whether a hedgerow is important.
- The criteria relate to the value of the hedgerows from an archaeological, historical, landscape or wildlife perspective.
- Not applicable to hedgerows < 30 years old
- Considerable local variation but research suggest > 70% hedgerows are estimated to be “important” if assessed according to criteria in the regulations.



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An important hedgerow must be at least 30 years old is assessed from an historic, landscape, and wildlife perspective to determine whether or not it qualifies as “important”.

You can find the detailed criteria in [Part II of Schedule I to the Regulations](#).

Hedgerow protection - Tree Preservation Orders (TPO)



- TPOs prohibit the cutting down, uprooting, topping, wilful destruction or damage of trees without LPA consent.
- To be protected a tree must meet one of three conditions:
 - A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) has been made at some time to cover that tree.
 - A planning condition has been made at some time to cover the tree – these are normally applied when planning applications affect existing trees. They are normally temporary (for up to two years), but may last longer and some have no time limit.
 - The tree is in a conservation area.
- TPOs can be placed on any trees including woodland and hedgerow trees, but not hedgerows themselves. In practice, TPOs tend to be most commonly used in urban or semi-urban settings e.g. gardens and parkland.



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A Tree Preservation Order is an order made by a local planning authority in England to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity. This may be based on size and form; future potential as an amenity; rarity, cultural or historic value; contribution to, and relationship with, the landscape; and contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area.

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Hedgerow protection - Cross Compliance

You must:
take all reasonable steps to keep a green cover on land within 2 metres of the centre of a hedge.

You must not:
cultivate or apply fertilisers or pesticides to land within 2 metres of the **centre of a hedge**.

centre of hedge

2.0m

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If farmers and landowners claim for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), a stewardship scheme or the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) then they must follow cross compliance rules .

The cross compliance rules on hedges apply to any hedge growing in, or adjacent to, any land which forms part of the holding and which has one of the following:

- a continuous length of at least 20 metres, or is part of any such length
- a continuous length of less than 20 metres where it meets (at an intersection or junction) another hedge at each end

Any gap of 20 metres or less and any gap resulting from a breach of the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 will be treated as part of the hedge.

Under cross compliance rules you must:

take all reasonable steps to keep a green cover on land within 2 metres of the centre of a hedge.

You must not:

cultivate or apply fertilisers or pesticides to land within 2 metres of the centre of a hedge. Fertilisers include: inorganic and organic fertiliser, organic manures, lime,

slurry, sewage sludge, slag, trace elements, calcified seaweed and human waste (not an exhaustive list).

Pesticides mean anything used for destroying pests and include herbicides, fungicides, insecticides and other biocides.

You won't break these rules if you've used pesticides for the spot application to control the spread of any of the weeds listed in GAEC 1, or you've cultivated land for one of these reasons:

to establish a green cover where one doesn't exist and the land is part of a field which is being newly created (whether by merger or division)

to establish a green cover where one doesn't exist and the land was previously outside the scope of cross compliance

you have written permission from RPA to do so, in order to enhance the environment, improve public or agricultural access, or for reasons relating to livestock or crop production.

These rules do not apply:

to land either side of a hedge which is less than 5 years old (you'll need to keep documentary evidence to prove this)

to land forming part of a parcel of 2 hectares or less, as measured within permanent boundary features

to land on the side of any hedge which is facing a dwelling where the hedge marks a boundary of the curtilage of the dwelling

to the casting up of a traditional hedge bank between 1 September and the last day of February (inclusive).

Hedgerow protection - Cross Compliance



You must not cut or trim a hedge between 1 March and 31 August (inclusive) unless:

- the hedge overhangs a highway, road or footpath over which there is a public or private right of way and the overhanging hedge obstructs the passage of, or is a danger to, vehicles, pedestrians or horse riders
- the hedge is dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted and because of its condition, it or part of it, is likely to cause danger by falling on to a highway, road or footpath; or obstructs the view of drivers or the light from a public lamp
- it is to carry out hedge-laying or coppicing during the period 1 March to 30 April (inclusive)
- it is to trim a newly laid hedge by hand, within 6 months of it being laid
- you have received written permission from RPA to cut or trim during the month of August for the purposes of sowing oil seed rape or temporary grassland during the same August.



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Cutting, trimming and removal

You must not cut or trim a hedge between 1 March and 31 August (inclusive) unless: the hedge overhangs a highway, road or footpath over which there is a public or private right of way and the overhanging hedge obstructs the passage of, or is a danger to, vehicles, pedestrians or horse riders

the hedge is dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted and because of its condition, it or part of it, is likely to cause danger by falling on to a highway, road or footpath; or obstructs the view of drivers or the light from a public lamp

it is to carry out hedge-laying or coppicing during the period 1 March to 30 April (inclusive)

it is to trim a newly laid hedge by hand, within 6 months of it being laid

you have received written permission from RPA to cut or trim during the month of August for the purposes of sowing oil seed rape or temporary grassland during the same August.

You must not remove all or part of a hedge unless one of the exemptions in regulation 6 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 applies or you have told your local authority (or National Park Authority if your land is in a National Park) in writing of your proposal, and have either:

received written permission to carry out the removal

have received no reply from the authority within 42 days of your notification.
The removal must be carried out in accordance with the proposal specified in the hedge removal notice and the hedge must be removed within the period of 2 years from the date on the hedge removal notice.

The cutting, trimming and removal rules do not apply:
to hedges within the curtilage of a dwelling-house
to the side of any hedge facing a dwelling-house when the hedge marks the boundary of the curtilage of the dwelling-house.

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Must also abide by hedgerow regulations.

Farmers may have further restrictions on how frequently and when they can cut their hedges if they have entered them into an Agri-Environment Scheme.

Hedgerow protection – Other considerations



- Wildlife and Countryside Act – bird breeding season
- Protected species
- Felling licences
- Hedgerows on a protected site – SSSI or SPA.
- Old Inclosure Acts
- Planning conditions
- Existing Management Plans
- Landowner permission!



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- Wildlife & Countryside Act - no dates legally stated between which you should not trim, cut lay or coppice a hedge.
- Main bird breeding season is 1 March and 31 August so avoid. Should always check the hedge for any sign of breeding activity before undertaking work.
- Protected species of animal such as badgers, dormice and great crested newts may live in or close to hedgerows. Licences might be required in relation to these species when carrying out work. In these cases advice should be sought from Natural England.
- When felling more than 5m³ in a calendar quarter you may require a felling licence. (Five cubic metres is roughly equivalent to one large oak tree or 50 thin chestnut coppice trees). The Forestry Commission can help if you require further advice on this.
- If the hedgerow is on a protected site seek advice from Natural England.
- Some hedges are protected by old Inclosure Acts that may require the hedges to be retained and managed in perpetuity.
- Some Planning Permissions may have conditions requiring the retention of hedgerows on development sites
- Sites may already have a management plan in place. Should ensure that any planned work is in line with the management plan.

- Landowner permission should always be sought before undertaking any work on hedgerows (applies to undertaking any work, not just hedgerows, on land not under your direct management control).

Hedgerow Grants



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Different grants are sometimes available and it's always worth speaking to your local authority and doing a quick web search to see if anything comes up. If you know of anyone who is planning hedgerow works within the North Wessex Downs AONB then it may also be appropriate to look at the NWD Sustainable Development Fund.

Grants



Basingstoke
and Deane



Basingstoke & Deane Community, Heritage and Environment Fund (CHEF)

- Applications are open to anyone wanting to engage the community in improving the environment anywhere in the borough.
- The project must improve one or more of the following:
 - the natural environment
 - the historic built environment
 - the general amenity of an area
 - the visual amenity of an area affected by a nuisance issue, and
 - Be of benefit to the general public.
- Now closed for applications for 2015/16 Calendar year
- <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/chefund>



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Grants



Woodland Trust Trees in hedgerows

- Tailored advice, support and specifically designed planting packs are available for people planting hedgerows. These include a mix of plants, trees and protective tubes at just 40 percent of the usual cost.
- <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/trees-on-land/grants-and-funding/from-us/>



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Grants



Countryside Stewardship: hedgerows and boundaries grant

- Open for applications until 30 April 2016.
- Up to £5,000 for farmers who want to restore boundary features, such as hedges and stone walls, to protect their local wildlife or landscape.
- The Hedgerow and Boundaries Grant Manual and application form can be found at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/countryside-stewardship-hedgerows-and-boundaries-grant-manual-2016>
- Details of the options and requirements can be found in the capital items manual:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/468448/cs-capital-items.pdf



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Grants



Countryside Stewardship: hedgerows and boundaries grant

Code	Capital Item	£ Payment Rate
BN5	Hedgerow laying	9.4/m
BN6	Hedgerow coppicing	4.0/m
BN7	Hedgerow gapping-up	9.5/m
BN8	Hedgerow Supplement – Casting up	3.0/m
BN10	Hedgerow supplement – top binding & staking	3.4/m
TE1	Planting standard hedgerow	8.8 per tree
BN4	Earth bank restoration	7.0/m
BN1	Stone-faced bank repair	31.0/m
BN2	Stone-faced bank restoration	86.0/m
BN12	Stone wall restoration	25.0/m
BN13	Stone wall supplement – top wiring	3.6/m
BN14	Stone wall supplement – stone from quarry	44.0/m



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The Hedgerow Management Cycle



- What will happen to a hedgerow if we do nothing to it?
- Can we manage a hedgerow to keep it indefinitely at any given stage without causing its decline?



- Incremental height increase allows natural growth cycle
 - Dense healthy, functional hedgerow
 - Reduces frequency of costly management intervention
 - e.g. Increase cutting height 10cm every 3 years - over 30 years to gain a metre



Local hedgerows Alison Cross

Charity No. 207881 Registered Company No. 076113

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Repeated cutting at the same height. Aging stems become larger and often knarled and twisted due to the constant cutting taking place above.

Relax cutting before the stems begin to die out then a hedge can remain in good heart

Density of stems in a hedge that is crucial to this process. Trim a hedge at same height for long time, stems die out and reduce management options.

Incremental increase in height in controlled manner before it becomes over stressed means that when reach the point where need to lay or coppice, we have enough stems to form the basis for the next thick, dense hedge to grow.



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Tall hedge developing into lines of trees and showing signs of collapse, Nigel Adams

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But don't forget tall old hedges provide an excellent nectar source from flowers and ivy and can be an important source of fruit

May turn into a line of trees if trees species are able to colonize. Lines of trees can be important for bats and larger tree nesting birds but a balance has to be found between losing the rich habitat of a dense hedge through neglect and allowing some hedges to develop into trees.



And you will nearly always want some individuals to develop into hedgerow trees which are so important for wildlife and landscape

Hedgerow Management Scale



- Read a hedgerow by recognising the life cycle of a hedge
- Developed by Hedgelink
- A scale from 1 to 10
- 1 is an over trimmed, gappy and dying hedge
- 10 is a hedge that has turned into a line of trees
- All other hedges will be somewhere in between



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In the ideal world it would be perfect to maintain a hedge between a score of perhaps 3 and 8 - between being a healthy trimmed hedge and a healthy tall hedge.

As managers we can then base our decisions on slowing down but not altogether halting the natural changes that the hedge wants to go through.

By doing this on all hedges on a holding we achieve the ideal mosaic of different shapes and sizes.

1

Heavily over-trimmed with many gaps and sparse stems, their bases gnarled or rotting. May be invaded by elder, sycamore or other invasive species.

ACTION

Coppice and re-plant gaps.
Grub out or poison
invasive species



Nigel Adams

3

Over-trimmed, frequent stems. Stems still healthy but require more height. Hard knuckle may be starting to form at trim line.

ACTION Allow incremental height gain at each cut or 'let up' up for laying.



Alison Cross



5

Healthy, dense hedgerow with frequent stems and more than 2m in height.

ACTION Trim on a two or preferably three or more year rotation. Raise cutting height if hard knuckle forming at trim line.



Single species hedgerow – Alison Cross

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7

Hedgerow with frequent healthy stems more than 4 m high.

ACTION Lay or reduce height with circular saw blade. Would also respond well to coppicing



Farm hedge in Suffolk, Alison Cross

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Creating a Hedgerow Management Plan



Mark and number all of the hedges on a map.

- Walk around the farm
 - score each hedge using the management cycle
 - note species composition for each hedge
 - note links with other habitats
 - mark hedgerow trees on map or where hedge would benefit from more trees
 - mark sections which need gapping up on map
 - note field margins and banks – is the hedge protected from field operations

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It's up to you how much information you collect. You may wish to look at old maps which can provide lots of information. If applying for a grant, the fact that it is of historic significance may be very useful.

You will often hear people say that you can assess a hedges age by the number of woody species – 5 or more meaning it is ancient (predating Enclosures Acts 1720 and 1780 but beware. It may be a hedge which has been planted with a number or species. The hedgerow flora can be a good indicator. The presence of wood anemone, bluebells for example suggest it is a woodland remnant.

MAGIC

Bushy Farm Hedgerows

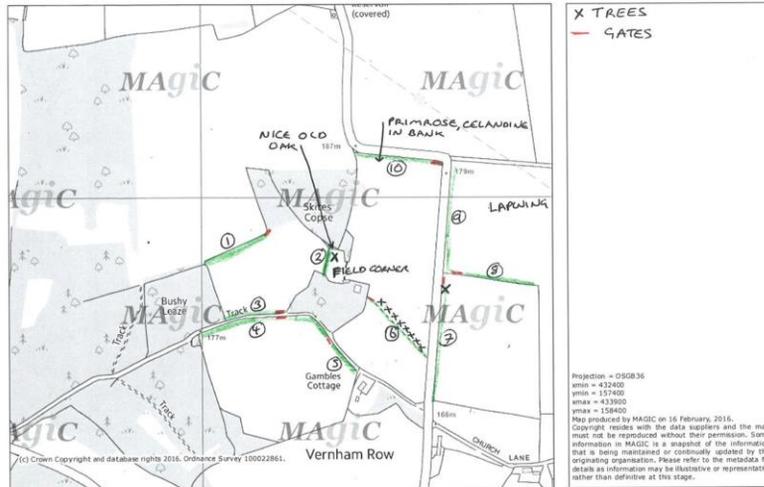


Chart No. 20781 Registered Company No. 07613

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Hedge Ref	Score	Notes
1	1	Very overtrimmed and now only elder. Links woodlands. Dormouse has been recorded in Bushy Leaze
2	9	Mixed species inc. field maple, hazel, hawthorn with veteran oak. ELS field corner
3	8	Mainly old coppiced hazel, very gappy esp. towards eastern end
4	4	Mixed species: oak, field maple, hazel, hawthorn. Trimmed at same height each year and becoming thin at base. Very good field margin habitat
5	3	Blackthorn
6	10	Old parish boundary with mature trees including pollarded field maple and old coppiced ash. More a line of trees than a hedge. Some trees have rot holes and showing signs of decay.
7	3	Planted some 8 - 10 years ago. Hawthorn and blackthorn, hazel with occasional oak. Frequent stems but sparse at base. Some tree guards still present. Trimmed annually as against roadside. Knuckle forming. Old oak tree by gate
8	7	Species as 7. Birds feed on berries in winter
9	3	Composition and management as 7. Lapwing present during survey and try to breed in spring.
10	3	Mixed species: oak, field maple, hazel, hawthorn. Deep verge on roadside. Nice bank with primrose and celandine on field side.
		All hedges apart from 6, 7 and 8 have 4 – 6 metre buffers. 6, 7, and 8 are electric fenced when sheep are in the fields.

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Creating a Hedgerow Management Plan

- Use the information to create a hedgerow management plan
- Include:
 - aims and objectives for the hedgerow network
 - information from the survey and any other relevant information
 - management to be taken
 - why (your aim)
- Annotate a map to show management
- Remember to update plan regularly
- Ensure staff/contractors have a copy of the plan and understand the objectives

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As simple or complex as you like but there is no need for it to be complicated, just ensure that the management is derived from your survey.

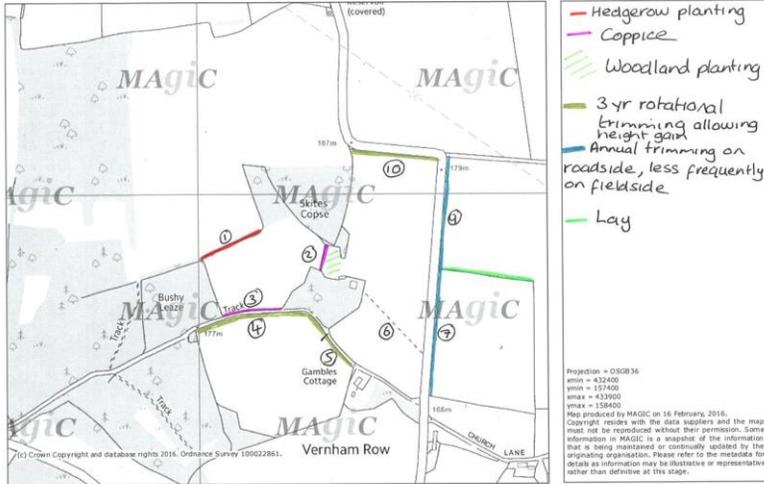


Chart No. 207681 Registered Company No. 076113

Golden Rules



1. **Keep it thick** - dense hedges provide safe nesting and roosting places for small birds. Open hedges attract magpies, crows, pigeons and squirrels.
2. **Timeliness** - late winter whenever possible to keep berry crop. But never cut in the breeding season 1st March – 31st August
3. **Less is more** – use longer rotations wherever possible and each time allow it to grow up and out a little. If you have to cut more frequently then cut one side at a time or half the length of the hedge.
No more than 5% of your hedges should be coppiced in one year
4. **Go native, go local** – when planting use native species typical of the area and preferably of local provenance. Include willows and blackthorn for early season nectar, hawthorn, bramble and rose for summer flowers and autumn berries; ivy for autumn nectar and late winter berries



Holly is a very good hedging plant, forming compact dense bushes that give excellent protection during the winter

Pussy willow is an extremely useful tree and often requires no more than for you to push a length of stem into the ground

5. Think trees – Mature trees increase wildlife that uses the hedge.
6. More than shrubs and trees- hedge bases can support lots of wildlife. The flowers and grasses are important components of the hedge
7. Link the hedge with other wildlife habitats and fill in gaps - hedges linked to other hedges, or wildlife habitats, allow wildlife to move through landscapes.
8. Observe your hedges - what goes on in your hedge?
Keep records and tailor your management



Insects will congregate around the crown and beneath the canopy, providing rich feeding for birds and bats. Small trees, like holly, rowan and crab apple, are also very valuable, especially for their flowers and rich berry and fruit crops. Plan for replacements

Flowers like primroses and knapweed provide nectar and pollen for bees and other beneficial invertebrates, while tussocky grasses provide safe places for beetles and spiders during the winter. Frogs, toads, newts and lizards like dense growth at the base of hedgerows for food, cover and places to hibernate. Hedgehogs like thick cover too

Bats and dormice are among many creatures that dislike even small gaps

Hedgerow Management Options

Trimming

To flail or not to flail!

- cut and mulch very well and deal with thick woody growth but often leave a very unsightly hedge

What are the alternatives?

Knife blade cutter

- reciprocating knife type or circular spinning blades
- neat cut and ideal for light growth but don't mulch the brash



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Circular saw blade machine

- Ideal for reshaping a hedge after a period of non intervention
- Need to clear up the brash but can be pushed up with a front loader and burnt
- Wood fuel opportunity



**Hedge trimmer with circular-saw attachment,
Mark Darbyshire, Natural England**

Charity No. 207081 Registered Company No. 079312

www.hiwwt.org.uk

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Could consider managing some hedges for woodfuel. Flail just the sides (every 3 years) over the length of the coppice cycle which will vary according to the type of hedge.

General rule – no more than half of your hedges should be managed for woodfuel

Coppicing

- 1st September to 30th April - but Jan/Feb is best for wildlife.
- Take account of ground conditions
- Clean cut at an angle, leaving a stump of 5cm or so
- Protect from browsing



Coppiced hedge - Hedgeline

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Hedge Laying

- Traditional
- Less impact on wildlife providing a degree of habitat continuity
- Livestock proof barrier
- Hedge should be at least 3m but preferably 4m and stems 50 – 100mm diameter
- Stems need to be tall enough to fill the gaps when layed over
- Stems cut most of the way through and layed over without damaging them creating pleachers
- New hedge grows up from the base
- Usually strengthened with vertical stakes and horizontal binders



Top binding on hedge layed in the South of England style, Emily Ledder, Natural England

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Further information:

- Hedgelink - <http://hedgelink.org.uk/index.php> - lots of information on hedgerows including the Hedgerow Management Cycle
- Gov.uk website - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/countryside-hedgerows-regulation-and-management> - Information on Hedgerow Regulations 1997, TPOs and Cross Compliance.
- <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/index.cfm#zoom=5&lat=56.0000&lon=-4.0000&layers=1> - Online resource for overlaying modern OS mapping and Bing aerial photography with historical OS maps.
- A guide to harvesting woodfuel from hedges
http://www.organicresearchcentre.com/manage/authincludes/article_uploads/project_outputs/TWECOM%20ORC%20Best%20Practice%20Guide%20v%201.0.pdf



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Hedgelink is a very useful source of information.

Have a good dvd - 'A Cut Above The Rest' is available as a DVD free from Natural England's Enquiry Service. Telephone: 0845 600 3078
enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk



- Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
 - Hedgerow management plans
 - Hedgerow training days
 - Guidance and advice on hedgerow management
 - Alison.Cross@hiwwt.org.uk
 - Amanda.Ingham@hiwwt.org.uk



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