



Hedgerow Heroes, The Meyrick Estate

State of Hedges Report

Surveying carried out over period: August 2021 – November 2021

Background

CPRE Hampshire's Hedgerow Heroes project was set up to raise awareness of hedgerows in the local community, recruiting volunteers and visiting schools, laying and gapping up existing hedgerows, as well as planting new. Working in partnership with the Meyrick Estate, Bransgore, on the western edge of the New Forest, 1.3 km of new hedgerows have been planted and 1.7km of existing hedgerows have been gapped up. Additionally, working with two local schools, a further two 50m of hedges have been planted on the school grounds.

Forming Friends of the Meyrick Estate, thirteen volunteers were recruited in July 2021 to carry out surveys and laying a portion of the existing hedges on the estate. The group were taught to assess the health of hedgerows by the People's Trust for Endangered Species, to record the state of the hedges before any work was started, forming a baseline data set to understand what value the existing hedges might provide for both wildlife and for farmers. The volunteers were also trained by a Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust ecologist to carry out pollinator surveys of bumblebees and butterflies, creating a baseline of data so that once the gapping up, planting and laying is completed, the subsequent benefits to the local wildlife can be more fully understood.

Hedge Health Assessment – The Great British Hedgerow Survey

The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) have formulated an assessment method to allow for a standardised process of surveying the qualities of hedgerows across the country in the hope of building a better image of the state of our hedgerows across the British countryside.

The following data will form the baseline picture of the site, and subsequent surveys in following years will track the improvements seen as a result of the restoration work carried out (planting and laying).

Summary

Hedge health assessment following the PTES Great British Survey process classified the majority of the hedgerows on the Meyrick Estate as *H1-3, overtrimmed*, and frequently with a limited range of species, therefore providing little or no food for wildlife.

All, except one of the total of eight hedges assessed, had **connectivity** score lower than a third, with no evidence of gapping up and many vegetative gaps and gaps greater than 5m. *Hedge 4 (north)* reported gaps making up a significant 60% of the hedge, although in most cases this figure is below 20%.

Biodiversity: The surveying indicated low levels of nutrient enrichment, with all but one side of a surveyed hedgerow with less than 10% cover of nettles, docks and cleavers, and frequently reported at around 1% cover. Remaining below recommended maximum of nutrient enrichment levels of 20%. However, repeated surveying during times of the year when these indicator species are more abundant would more accurately demonstrate the nutrient enrichment in these locations.

Species present included pedunculate and sessile oak (*Quercus robur* and *petraea*), holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), wild cherry (*Prunus avium*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*), dog rose (*Rosa canina*), gorse (*Ulex* sp.), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), privet - with climber species bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), ivy (*Hedera helix*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*).

Structure score based on hedge height, width, height at base canopy (should be no higher than 0.5m). Dead structure, trim line knuckle, undisturbed ground: between 0.5m and 3m or no data. 2m is ideal. All but two of the eight hedges received a structure score of 0/4 for the H classifications given.

Best example: *Hedge 8*, scoring highest on connectivity and structure, but scoring lower on biodiversity with few species providing food to wildlife and showing signs of excess nutrient enrichment at either side of base.

Worst example: *Hedge 2 (north)*, scoring lowest on biodiversity and joint lowest on structure, and scoring low on connectivity.

Main focus to work on: Replanting to gap up hedges, removing non hedge species such as bramble and ivy which ultimately cause gapping and to lay existing hedges, especially those with high base canopy and knuckled trim lines.

Thing to celebrate: Two hedges had high results on structure, *Hedge 4 (south)* and *Hedge 8*, with H classifications of *H8* and *H7* respectively. *H8* simply requires laying an *H7*, reshaping. For all hedges there was no evidence of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed, hemlock water dropwort, rhododendron, three cornered leek, although should be checked again in spring-summer months.

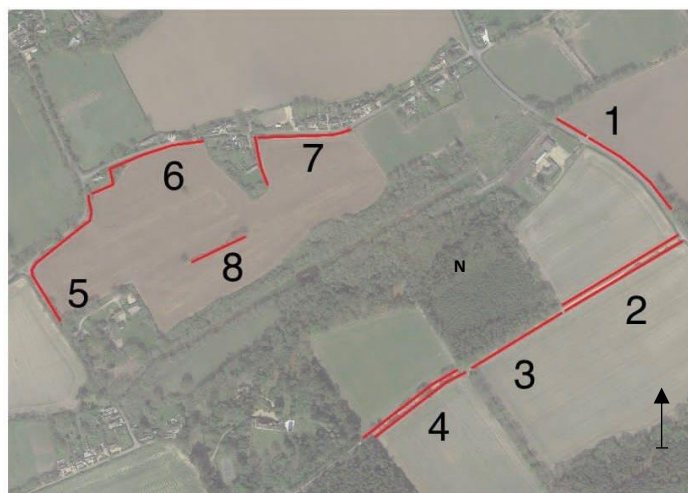


Image 1: Map of hedges on Meyrick Estate.

Hedge number	Connectivity (/16)		Structure (/22)		Biodiversity (/27)		Total (/65)	
Hedge 2 (north)	3	19%	6	27%	10	37%	19	29%
Hedge 2 (south)	3	19%	10	45%	14	52%	27	42%
Hedge 3	5	31%	7	32%	14	52%	26	40%
Hedge 4 (north)	4	25%	10	45%	19	70%	33	51%
Hedge 4 (south)	2	13%	18	82%	22	81%	33	51%
Hedge 5	-		12	55%	14	52%	26	40%
Hedge 7	4	25%	6	27%	18	67%	28	43%
Hedge 8	7	44%	19	86%	16	59%	42	65%

Table 1: Quantified assessment of states of individual hedges based on connectivity, structure and biodiversity.

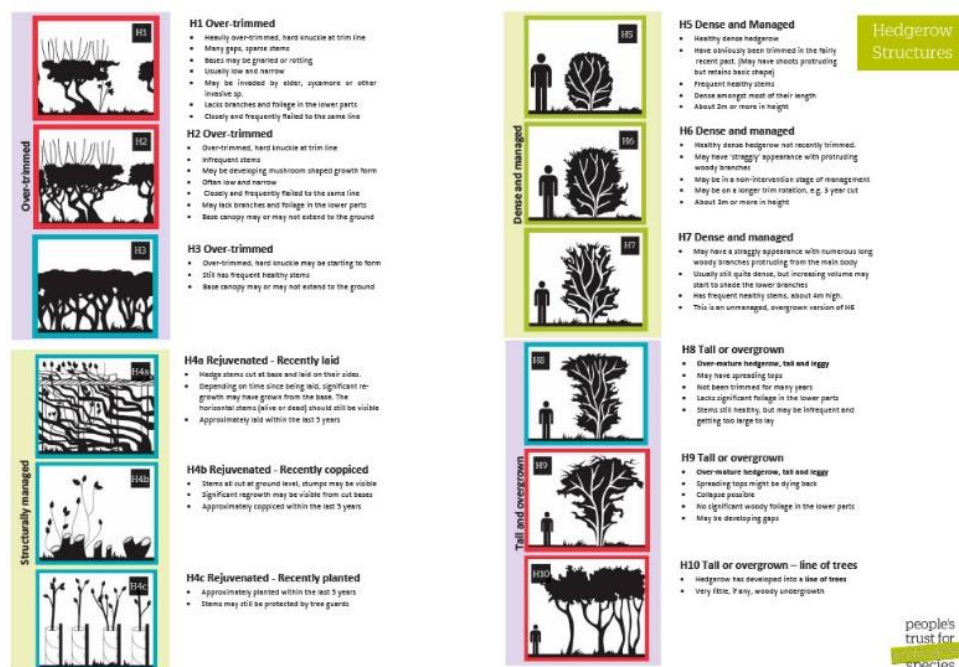
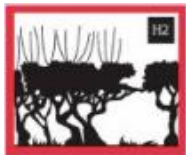


Figure 1: Hedge classification guide (PTES).

Hedge 2 (north) – PTES overall hedge health score: 19/65



Headline Management Advice

This hedge is overtrimmed, perhaps frequently flailed to the same line, maybe forming some gaps, and would benefit from some structural management. If the stems are a manageable size for laying, then this hedge could be 'let up' for laying, then laid and any gaps planted with suitable woody species. If the bases are too thick for effective laying, then this hedge can be coppiced. Laying the cut brash as a dead-hedge in its space can protect regrowth from browsing animals and ensure there is still protection for hedgerow wildlife. When planting up any gaps in this hedge, consider also planting new hedgerow trees. We recommend that no more than 5% of the hedges you manage should be coppiced in any one year. Fencing off recently coppiced or layed hedges will prevent the regrowth being grazed.

Connectivity

Name	Score	Advice
Hedge connections	1 / 4	This hedgerow dropped points for its connectivity value, either because it is an isolated hedge or because it is a remnant of a larger, now heavily fragmented hedge. This isn't easy to resolve, but think about how you might be able to connect this hedge to the wider hedge/landscape
Access gates	2 / 2	
% Vegetative gaps *	0 / 4	
Gaps more than 5m *	0 / 4	This hedge has gaps over 5m which should be replanted with a variety of locally appropriate woody hedge species.
Evidence of replanting/gapping up	0 / 2	
Total	3 / 16	

Structure

Name	Score	Advice
Height *	3 / 4	
Width *	1 / 4	This hedge would benefit from being wider, try to allow incremental width increase in future trims.
Height of base canopy should be less than 0.5m, ideally no canopy *	0 / 4	The base canopy of this hedge should be below 0.5m to not be considered poor condition, there is no longer enough vegetation at the base. This can happen, either through over-shading, heavy grazing at the base or sometimes where tree guards have been left on young hedges too long. Sometimes reshaping an overgrown hedge can help with this, but laying hedges that are a bit 'leggy' could also work. Fencing off a recently layed hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed.
Dead Structure	2 / 2	
Trim line knuckle	0 / 2	This hedge shows a hard knuckle at the trim line indicating it has been repeatedly trimmed to the same level. Over time this can degrade the condition of the hedge, reduce how useful it is to wildlife and increase the chances that it is taken over by more invasive species. Incrementally increasing the height and width of the hedge at each trim will prevent this knuckle forming or getting worse.
Structure score	0 / 4	This hedge is overtrimmed, perhaps frequently flailed to the same line, maybe forming some gaps, and would benefit from some structural management. If the stems are a manageable size for laying, then this hedge could be 'let up' for laying, then laid and any gaps planted with suitable woody species. If the bases are too thick for effective laying, then this hedge can be coppiced. Laying the cut brash as a dead-hedge in it's space can protect regrowth from browsing animals and ensure there is still protection for hedgerow wildlife. When planting up any gaps in this hedge, consider also planting new hedgerow trees. We recommend that no more than 5% of the hedges you manage should be coppiced in any one year. Fencing

Name	Score	Advice
		off recently coppiced or layed hedges will prevent the regrowth being grazed.
*Soil disturbance	0 / 2	There is evidence of soil disturbance close to this hedge. Soil disturbance such as ploughing closer than 2m from the base of the hedge can damage the roots of the woody species in the hedge, as well as any hedgerow trees.
Total	6 / 22	

Biodiversity

Name	Score	Advice
Nutrient enrichment plants on either side should be less than 20% *	2 / 4	It looks like one or both sides of this hedge is suffering from excess nutrient enrichment shown by the cover of nutrient enrichment indicator plants such as nettles docks and cleavers. If this hedge borders an arable field, leaving a wider field margin can reduce the risks of excessive nutrient levels at the hedge base
No evidence of invasive species *	1 / 1	
Woody species count	3 / 4	
Woody species spread (of dominant 5)	3 / 4	

Name	Score	Advice
Perennial herbaceous vegetation *	0 / 2	A lack of perennial herbaceous vegetation on either or both sides of this hedge could indicate either ploughing or herbicide use too close to the base of this hedge. Many animals rely on this vegetation for shelter, foraging and nesting.
Hedge structure as food resource	0 / 4	An over-trimmed hedge does not provide a good food resource for wildlife. Many of the flowers and fruits only grow on second year wood which is less abundant in hedges that are frequently and severely trimmed
Number of species in food list (from 5 Dominant)	1 / 4	It looks like this hedge doesn't have many species that provide a good food resource for wildlife. If and when appropriate plant some of the species on the 'food list'.
Mature trees	0 / 2	
Young trees	0 / 2	This hedge dropped points for not having enough young hedgerow trees. Either select existing saplings in the hedge or plant some in gaps in your hedgerow. These will need to be marked and protected from future flailing. Many hedgerows may not have suitable saplings to protect, particularly dense single-species hedges, in these cases they will need to be planted. It's often easiest to select and protect suitable saplings at the same time as laying or coppicing a hedgerow.
Total	10 / 27	

Hedge 2 (south) – PTES overall hedge health score: 27/65



Headline Management Advice

This hedge looks like it has been overtrimmed, cut to the same level for too long. However, it still has frequent healthy stems and should respond well to laying. First you should 'let up' for laying by letting the hedge grow up for a year or more, then lay the hedge and plant up any gaps there may be with suitable woody species. Fencing off a recently layed hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed. Alternatively, if the hedge is showing now signs of hollowing and there are no signs of the hedge becoming more gappy, then you can continue cutting this hedge, allowing incremental height and width gain of about 10cm at every cut.

Connectivity

Name	Score	Advice
Hedge connections	2 / 4	
Access gates	1 / 2	
% Vegetative gaps *	0 / 4	
Gaps more than 5m *	0 / 4	This hedge has gaps over 5m which should be replanted with a variety of locally appropriate woody hedge species.
Evidence of replanting/gapping up	0 / 2	
Total	3 / 16	

Structure

Name	Score	Advice
Height *	3 / 4	

Name	Score	Advice
Width *	3 / 4	This hedge is a good width, providing a good habitat for wildlife.
Height of base canopy should be less than 0.5m, ideally no canopy *	0 / 4	The base canopy of this hedge should be below 0.5m to not be considered poor condition, there is no longer enough vegetation at the base. This can happen either through over-shading, heavy grazing at the base or sometimes where tree guards have been left on young hedges too long. Sometimes reshaping an overgrown hedge can help with this, but laying hedges that are a bit 'leggy' could also work. Fencing off a recently layed hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed.
Dead Structure	2 / 2	
Trim line knuckle	0 / 2	This hedge shows a hard knuckle at the trim line indicating it has been repeatedly trimmed to the same level. Over time this can degrade the condition of the hedge, reduce how useful it is to wildlife and increase the chances that it is taken over by more invasive species. Incrementally increasing the height and width of the hedge at each trim will prevent this knuckle forming or getting worse.
Structure score	0 / 4	This hedge looks like it has been overtrimmed, cut to the same level for too long. However, it still has frequent healthy stems and should respond well to laying. First you should 'let up' for laying by letting the hedge grow up for a year or more, then lay the hedge and plant up any gaps there may be with suitable woody species. Fencing off a recently layed hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed. Alternatively, if the hedge is showing now signs of hollowing and there are no signs of the hedge becoming more gappy, then you can continue cutting this hedge, allowing incremental height and width gain of about 10cm at every cut.
*Soil disturbance	2 / 2	

Name	Score	Advice
Total	10 / 22	

Biodiversity

Name	Score	Advice
Nutrient enrichment plants on either side should be less than 20% *	2 / 4	It looks like one or both sides of this hedge is suffering from excess nutrient enrichment shown by the cover of nutrient enrichment indicator plants such as nettles docks and cleavers. If this hedge borders an arable field, leaving a wider field margin can reduce the risks of excessive nutrient levels at the hedge base
No evidence of invasive species *	1 / 1	
Woody species count	1 / 4	This hedge could do with a greater range of woody species. If and when you replant gaps in this hedge, try to include a range of different appropriate woody species.
Woody species spread (of dominant 5)	3 / 4	
Perennial herbaceous vegetation *	2 / 2	
Hedge structure as food resource	0 / 4	An over-trimmed hedge does not provide a good food resource for wildlife. Many of the flowers and fruits only grow on second year wood which is less abundant in hedges that are frequently and severely trimmed

Name	Score	Advice
Number of species in food list (from 5 Dominant)	3 / 4	
Mature trees	2 / 2	
Young trees	0 / 2	This hedge dropped points for not having enough young hedgerow trees. Either select existing saplings in the hedge or plant some in gaps in your hedgerow. These will need to be marked and protected from future flailing. Many hedgerows may not have suitable saplings to protect, particularly dense single-species hedges, in these cases they will need to be planted. It's often easiest to select and protect suitable saplings at the same time as laying or coppicing a hedgerow.
Total	14 / 27	

Hedge 3 – PTES overall hedge health score: 26/65



Headline Management Advice

This hedge is overtrimmed, perhaps frequently flailed to the same line, maybe forming some gaps, and would benefit from some structural management. If the stems are a manageable size for laying, then this hedge could be 'let up' for laying, then laid and any gaps planted with suitable woody species. If the bases are too thick for effective laying, then this hedge can be coppiced. Laying the cut brash as a dead-hedge in it's space can protect regrowth from browsing animals and ensure there is still protection for hedgerow wildlife. When planting up any gaps in this hedge, consider also planting new hedgerow trees. We recommend that no more than 5% of the hedges you manage should be coppiced in any one year. Fencing off recently coppiced or layed hedges will prevent the regrowth being grazed.

Connectivity

Name	Score	Advice
Hedge connections	0 / 4	This hedgerow dropped points for its connectivity value, either because it is an isolated hedge or because it is a remnant of a larger, now heavily fragmented hedge. This isn't easy to resolve, but think about how you might be able to connect this hedge to the wider hedge/landscape
Access gates	0 / 2	
% Vegetative gaps *	1 / 4	This hedge is starting to get gappy. Replant these gaps if and when appropriate, with a range of woody hedge species.
Gaps more than 5m *	4 / 4	
Evidence of replanting/gapping up	0 / 2	
Total	5 / 16	

Structure

Name	Score	Advice
Height *	3 / 4	
Width *	1 / 4	This hedge would benefit from being wider, try to allow incremental width increase in future trims.
Height of base canopy should be less than 0.5m, ideally no canopy *	0 / 4	The base canopy of this hedge should be below 0.5m to not be considered poor condition, there is no longer enough vegetation at the base. This can happen either through over-shading, heavy grazing at the base or sometimes where tree guards have been left on young hedges too long. Sometimes reshaping an overgrown hedge can help with this, but laying hedges that are a bit 'leggy' could also work. Fencing off a recently layed hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed.
Dead Structure	1 / 2	
Trim line knuckle	0 / 2	This hedge shows a hard knuckle at the trim line indicating it has been repeatedly trimmed to the same level. Over time this can degrade the condition of the hedge, reduce how useful it is to wildlife and increase the chances that it is taken over by more invasive species. Incrementally increasing the height and width of the hedge at each trim will prevent this knuckle forming or getting worse.
Structure score	0 / 4	This hedge is overtrimmed, perhaps frequently flailed to the same line, maybe forming some gaps, and would benefit from some structural management. If the stems are a manageable size for laying, then this hedge could be 'let up' for laying, then laid and any gaps planted with suitable woody species. If the bases are too thick for effective laying, then this hedge can be coppiced. Laying the cut brash as a dead-hedge in it's space can protect regrowth from browsing animals and ensure there is still protection for hedgerow wildlife. When planting up any gaps in this hedge, consider also planting new hedgerow trees. We recommend that no more than 5% of the hedges you manage should be coppiced in any one year. Fencing off recently

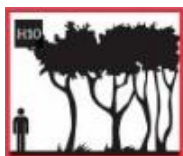
Name	Score	Advice
		coppiced or layed hedges will prevent the regrowth being grazed.
*Soil disturbance	2 / 2	
Total	7 / 22	

Biodiversity

Name	Score	Advice
Nutrient enrichment plants on either side should be less than 20% *	1 / 4	It looks like one or both sides of this hedge is suffering from excess nutrient enrichment shown by the cover of nutrient enrichment indicator plants such as nettles docks and cleavers. If this hedge borders an arable field, leaving a wider field margin can reduce the risks of excessive nutrient levels at the hedge base
No evidence of invasive species *	1 / 1	
Woody species count	2 / 4	This has a reasonable range of woody species but if and when you replant gaps in this hedge, it would benefit further from the addition of different, appropriate woody species.
Woody species spread (of dominant 5)	0 / 4	It looks like this hedge is dominated by one or two woody species. If and when you need to replant gaps, try to include a range of other woody species.
Perennial herbaceous vegetation *	2 / 2	

Name	Score	Advice
Hedge structure as food resource	0 / 4	An over-trimmed hedge does not provide a good food resource for wildlife. Many of the flowers and fruits only grow on second year wood which is less abundant in hedges that are frequently and severely trimmed
Number of species in food list (from 5 Dominant)	4 / 4	
Mature trees	2 / 2	
Young trees	2 / 2	
Total	14 / 27	

Hedge 4 (north) – PTES overall hedge health score: 33/65



Headline Management Advice

This hedgerow is now a line of trees, it has lost most if not all of the woody undergrowth that it would have had as a hedge. It should be managed as a line of trees.

Connectivity

Name	Score	Advice
Hedge connections	0 / 4	This hedgerow dropped points for its connectivity value, either because it is an isolated hedge or because it is a remnant of a larger, now heavily fragmented hedge. This isn't easy to resolve, but think about how you might be able to connect this hedge to the wider hedge/landscape
Access gates	2 / 2	
% Vegetative gaps *	0 / 4	
Gaps more than 5m *	0 / 4	This hedge has gaps over 5m which should be replanted with a variety of locally appropriate woody hedge species.
Evidence of replanting/gapping up	2 / 2	
Total	4 / 16	

Structure

Name	Score	Advice
Height *	2 / 4	
Width *	3 / 4	This hedge is a good width, providing a good habitat for wildlife.
Height of base canopy should be less than 0.5m, ideally no canopy *	0 / 4	The base canopy of this hedge should be below 0.5m to not be considered poor condition, there is no longer enough vegetation at the base. This can happen either through over-shading, heavy grazing at the base or sometimes where tree guards have been left on young hedges too long. Sometimes reshaping an overgrown hedge can help with this, but laying hedges that are a bit 'leggy' could also work. Fencing off a recently layed hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed.
Dead Structure	2 / 2	
Trim line knuckle	2 / 2	
Structure score	0 / 4	This hedgerow is now a line of trees, it has lost most If not all of the woody undergrowth that it would have had as a hedge. It should be managed as a line of trees.
*Soil disturbance	1 / 2	There is evidence of soil disturbance close to this hedge. Soil disturbance such as ploughing closer than 2m from the base of the hedge can damage the roots of the woody species in the hedge, as well as any hedgerow trees.
Total	10 / 22	

Biodiversity

Name	Score	Advice
Nutrient enrichment plants on either side should be less than 20% *	4 / 4	
No evidence of invasive species *	1 / 1	
Woody species count	2 / 4	This has a reasonable range of woody species but if and when you replant gaps in this hedge, it would benefit further from the addition of different, appropriate woody species.
Woody species spread (of dominant 5)	4 / 4	
Perennial herbaceous vegetation *	1 / 2	A lack of perennial herbaceous vegetation on either or both sides of this hedge could indicate either ploughing or herbicide use too close to the base of this hedge. Many animals rely on this vegetation for shelter, foraging and nesting.
Hedge structure as food resource	2 / 4	This hedge is now a line of trees, and whilst those trees may provide a reasonable food resource for wildlife, it is likely to have lost it's herbaceous undergrowth upon which many species depend.
Number of species in food list (from 5 Dominant)	1 / 4	It looks like this hedge doesn't have many species that provide a good food resource for wildlife. If and when appropriate plant some of the species on the 'food list'.
Mature trees	2 / 2	

Name	Score	Advice
Young trees	2 / 2	
Total	19 / 27	

Hedge 4 (south) – PTES overall hedge health score: 42/65



Headline Management Advice

This hedge appears to be tall and over-mature. If left unmanaged going forward, this hedge will start showing reduced vegetation at the base due to overshadowing, or it may become more overmature, leggy with spreading tops and the possibility of gaps developing. To prevent this, this hedge can be re-shaped with a circular saw and returned to a plan of rotational trimming or a non-intervention period. Any gaps that are already developing should be replanted with a suitable native species. Alternatively, this hedge would respond well to coppicing. Using some of the brash from the coppice as a dead hedge will provide shelter for hedgerow wildlife as well as providing some protection for the regrowing shoots. Before coppicing choose a number of stems to retain as hedgerow trees. We recommend that no more than 5% of the hedges you manage should be layed or coppiced in any one year.

Connectivity

Name	Score	Advice
Hedge connections	0 / 4	This hedgerow dropped points for its connectivity value, either because it is an isolated hedge or because it is a remnant of a larger, now heavily fragmented hedge. This isn't easy to resolve, but think about how you might be able to connect this hedge to the wider hedge/landscape
Access gates	2 / 2	
% Vegetative gaps *	0 / 4	
Gaps more than 5m *	0 / 4	This hedge has gaps over 5m which should be replanted with a variety of locally appropriate woody hedge species.
Evidence of replanting/gapping up	0 / 2	
Total	2 / 16	

Structure

Name	Score	Advice
Height *	4 / 4	
Width *	4 / 4	Fantastic, this hedge is nice and wide, providing a good habitat for wildlife.
Height of base canopy should be less than 0.5m, ideally no canopy *	4 / 4	
Dead Structure	0 / 2	There is a significant amount of dead structural wood in this hedge. As a matter of urgency you should try to isolate the cause of this death, whether is a result of ploughing too close to the roots or from disease, action needs to be taken to prevent further loss
Trim line knuckle	2 / 2	
Structure score	2 / 4	This hedge appears to be tall and over-mature. If left unmanaged going forward, this hedge will start showing reduced vegetation at the base due to overshadowing, or it may become more overmature, leggy with spreading tops and the possibility of gaps developing. To prevent this, this hedge can be re-shaped with a circular saw and returned to a plan of rotational trimming or a non-intervention period. Any gaps that are already developing should be replanted with a suitable native species. Alternatively, this hedge would respond well to coppicing. Using some of the brash from the coppice as a dead hedge will provide shelter for hedgerow wildlife as well as providing some protection for the regrowing shoots. Before coppicing chose a number of stems to retain as hedgerow trees. We recommend that no more than 5% of the hedges you manage should be layed or coppiced in any one year.

Name	Score	Advice
*Soil disturbance	2 / 2	
Total	18 / 22	

Biodiversity

Name	Score	Advice
Nutrient enrichment plants on either side should be less than 20% *	2 / 4	It looks like one or both sides of this hedge is suffering from excess nutrient enrichment shown by the cover of nutrient enrichment indicator plants such as nettles docks and cleavers. If this hedge borders an arable field, leaving a wider field margin can reduce the risks of excessive nutrient levels at the hedge base
No evidence of invasive species *	1 / 1	
Woody species count	3 / 4	
Woody species spread (of dominant 5)	4 / 4	
Perennial herbaceous vegetation *	2 / 2	
Hedge structure as food resource	4 / 4	The structure of this hedge means it is likely to provide a great food resource for wildlife, but you may wish to consider management to stop it

Name	Score	Advice
		overshading the hedge bottom undergrowth or getting leggy.
Number of species in food list (from 5 Dominant)	2 / 4	This hedge has some species that provide a good food resource for wildlife, but could still benefit from more. If and when appropriate plant some of the species on the 'food list'.
Mature trees	2 / 2	
Young trees	2 / 2	
Total	22 / 27	

Hedge 5 – PTES overall hedge health score: 26/65



Headline Management Advice

It appears that this hedge has been trimmed/overtrimmed for a number of years. If the management carried on in this way then this hedge will get increasingly gappy.

We suggest that based on the data you have entered, this hedge would benefit from coppicing and planting up any gaps with suitable woody species. Using some of the brash from the coppice as a dead hedge will provide shelter for hedgerow wildlife as well as providing some protection for the regrowing shoots. When planting up any gaps in this hedge, consider also planting new hedgerow trees. We recommend that no more than 5% of the hedges you manage should be coppiced in any one year. Fencing off a recently coppiced hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed.

Connectivity

Name	Score	Advice
Hedge connections	0 / 4	This hedgerow dropped points for its connectivity value, either because it is an isolated hedge or because it is a remnant of a larger, now heavily fragmented hedge. This isn't easy to resolve, but think about how you might be able to connect this hedge to the wider hedge/landscape
Access gates	0 / 2	
% Vegetative gaps *	0 / 4	
Gaps more than 5m *	0 / 4	This hedge has gaps over 5m which should be replanted with a variety of locally appropriate woody hedge species.
Evidence of replanting/gapping up	0 / 2	
Total	0 / 16	

Structure

Name	Score	Advice
Height *	3 / 4	
Width *	3 / 4	This hedge is a good width, providing a good habitat for wildlife.
Height of base canopy should be less than 0.5m, ideally no canopy *	0 / 4	The base canopy of this hedge should be below 0.5m to not be considered poor condition, there is no longer enough vegetation at the base. This can happen either through over-shading, heavy grazing at the base or sometimes where tree guards have been left on young hedges too long. Sometimes reshaping an overgrown hedge can help with this, but laying hedges that are a bit 'leggy' could also work. Fencing off a recently layed hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed.
Dead Structure	2 / 2	
Trim line knuckle	2 / 2	
Structure score	0 / 4	It appears that this hedge has been trimmed/overtrimmed for a number of years. If the management carried on in this way then this hedge will get increasingly gappy. We suggest that based on the data you have entered, this hedge would benefit from coppicing and planting up any gaps with suitable woody species. Using some of the brash from the coppice as a dead hedge will provide shelter for hedgerow wildlife as well as providing some protection for the regrowing shoots. When planting up any gaps in this hedge, consider also planting new hedgerow trees. We recommend that no more than 5% of the hedges you manage should be coppiced in any one year. Fencing off a recently coppiced hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed.
*Soil disturbance	2 / 2	

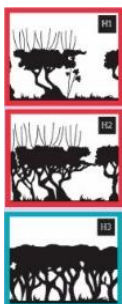
Name	Score	Advice
Total	12 / 22	

Biodiversity

Name	Score	Advice
Nutrient enrichment plants on either side should be less than 20% *	4 / 4	
No evidence of invasive species *	1 / 1	
Woody species count	0 / 4	This hedge doesn't have many different woody species. If and when you replant gaps in this hedge, try to include a range of different appropriate woody species.
Woody species spread (of dominant 5)	4 / 4	
Perennial herbaceous vegetation *	2 / 2	
Hedge structure as food resource	0 / 4	An over-trimmed hedge does not provide a good food resource for wildlife. Many of the flowers and fruits in hedgerows only grow on second year wood which is less abundant in hedges that are frequently and severely trimmed

Name	Score	Advice
Number of species in food list (from 5 Dominant)	1 / 4	It looks like this hedge doesn't have many species that provide a good food resource for wildlife. If and when appropriate plant some of the species on the 'food list'.
Mature trees	2 / 2	
Young trees	0 / 2	This hedge dropped points for not having enough young hedgerow trees. Either select existing saplings in the hedge or plant some in gaps in your hedgerow. These will need to be marked and protected from future flailing. Many hedgerows may not have suitable saplings to protect, particularly dense single-species hedges, in these cases they will need to be planted. It's often easiest to select and protect suitable saplings at the same time as laying or coppicing a hedgerow.
Total	14 / 27	

Hedge 7 – PTES overall hedge health score: 28/65



Headline Management Advice

Without knowing the structure of this hedge the condition assessment and management advice will be more limited.

Connectivity

Name	Score	Advice
Hedge connections	2 / 4	
Access gates	0 / 2	
% Vegetative gaps *	0 / 4	
Gaps more than 5m *	0 / 4	This hedge has gaps over 5m which should be replanted with a variety of locally appropriate woody hedge species.
Evidence of replanting/gapping up	2 / 2	
Total	4 / 16	

Structure

Name	Score	Advice
Height *	2 / 4	
Width *	3 / 4	This hedge is a good width, providing a good habitat for wildlife.
Height of base canopy should be less than 0.5m, ideally no canopy *	0 / 4	The base canopy of this hedge should be below 0.5m to not be considered poor condition, there is no longer enough vegetation at the base. This can happen either through over-shading, heavy grazing at the base or sometimes where tree guards have been left on young hedges too long. Sometimes reshaping an overgrown hedge can help with this, but laying hedges that are a bit 'leggy' could also work. Fencing off a recently layed hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed.
Dead Structure	0 / 2	There is a significant amount of dead structural wood in this hedge. As a matter of urgency you should try to isolate the cause of this death, whether is a result of ploughing too close to the roots or from disease, action needs to be taken to prevent further loss
Trim line knuckle	0 / 2	This hedge shows a hard knuckle at the trim line indicating it has been repeatedly trimmed to the same level. Over time this can degrade the condition of the hedge, reduce how useful it is to wildlife and increase the chances that it is taken over by more invasive species. Incrementally increasing the height and width of the hedge at each trim will prevent this knuckle forming or getting worse.
Structure score	0 / 4	Without knowing the structure of this hedge the condition assessment and management advice will be more limited
*Soil disturbance	1 / 2	There is evidence of soil disturbance close to this hedge. Soil disturbance such as ploughing closer than 2m from the base of the hedge can damage the roots of

Name	Score	Advice
		the woody species in the hedge, as well as any hedgerow trees.
Total	6 / 22	

Biodiversity

Name	Score	Advice
Nutrient enrichment plants on either side should be less than 20% *	4 / 4	
No evidence of invasive species *	1 / 1	
Woody species count	2 / 4	This has a reasonable range of woody species but if and when you replant gaps in this hedge, it would benefit further from the addition of different, appropriate woody species.
Woody species spread (of dominant 5)	4 / 4	
Perennial herbaceous vegetation *	1 / 2	A lack of perennial herbaceous vegetation on either or both sides of this hedge could indicate either ploughing or herbicide use too close to the base of this hedge. Many animals rely on this vegetation for shelter, foraging and nesting.
Hedge structure as food resource	0 / 4	("OVERTRIMMED") An over-trimmed hedge does not provide a good food resource for wildlife. Many of the flowers and fruits only grow on second year wood which is less abundant in hedges that are

Name	Score	Advice
		frequently and severely trimmed. (You have categorised this hedge into one of four broad structure descriptions. You will get more accurate feedback if you are able to classify this further into one of the 12 individual hedge structures)
Number of species in food list (from 5 Dominant)	2 / 4	This hedge has some species that provide a good food resource for wildlife, but could still benefit from more. If and when appropriate plant some of the species on the 'food list'.
Mature trees	2 / 2	
Young trees	2 / 2	
Total	18 / 27	

Hedge 8 – PTES overall hedge health score: 42/65



Headline Management Advice

From the 30m section of hedge surveyed, this appears to be a healthy, untrimmed hedge. It may be in a long cutting rotation or in a period of non-intervention, but so far it doesn't seem like the lower vegetation is being shaded out. If left under a non-intervention management in the long term, this hedge may start showing reduced vegetation at the base through overshadowing, or it may become overmature with spreading tops. If and when this starts to happen, this hedge can be rejuvenated by laying or reshaping. Alternatively, if this hedge is being used as a source of wood-fuel, it can be left in non-intervention (trimming the sides is fine where necessary) before being coppiced. In the long term, if the structure changes and vegetation at the base thins, re-survey to see whether the hedge would benefit from being re-shaped or laid. Before laying or reshaping choose a number of stems to retain as hedgerow trees. Layed hedges should then be trimmed fairly frequently to develop the shape/structure of the hedge, but cut allowing incremental growth in both height and width. Fencing off a recently layed hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed. We recommend that no more than 5% of the hedges you manage should be layed or coppiced in any one year.

Connectivity

Name	Score	Advice
Hedge connections	0 / 4	This hedgerow dropped points for its connectivity value, either because it is an isolated hedge or because it is a remnant of a larger, now heavily fragmented hedge. This isn't easy to resolve, but think about how you might be able to connect this hedge to the wider hedge/landscape
Access gates	1 / 2	
% Vegetative gaps *	2 / 4	This hedge has some low level gappiness.
Gaps more than 5m *	4 / 4	
Evidence of replanting/gapping up	0 / 2	

Name	Score	Advice
Total	7 / 16	

Structure

Name	Score	Advice
Height *	4 / 4	
Width *	4 / 4	Fantastic, this hedge is nice and wide, providing a good habitat for wildlife.
Height of base canopy should be less than 0.5m, ideally no canopy *	4 / 4	
Dead Structure	1 / 2	
Trim line knuckle	0 / 2	This hedge shows a hard knuckle at the trim line indicating it has been repeatedly trimmed to the same level. Over time this can degrade the condition of the hedge, reduce how useful it is to wildlife and increase the chances that it is taken over by more invasive species. Incrementally increasing the height and width of the hedge at each trim will prevent this knuckle forming or getting worse.
Structure score	4 / 4	From the 30m section of hedge surveyed, this appears to be a healthy, untrimmed hedge. It may be in a long cutting rotation or in a period of non-intervention, but so far it doesn't seem like the lower vegetation is being shaded out. If left under a non-intervention management in the long term, this hedge may start showing reduced vegetation at the base through overshadowing, or it may become overmature with spreading tops. If and when this starts to happen, this hedge can be rejuvenated by laying or reshaping. Alternatively, if this hedge is being used

Name	Score	Advice
		as a source of wood-fuel, it can be left in non-intervention (trimming the sides is fine where necessary) before being coppiced. In the long term, if the structure changes and vegetation at the base thins, re-survey to see whether the hedge would benefit from being re-shaped or layed. Before laying or reshaping chose a number of stems to retain as hedgerow trees. Layed hedges should then be trimmed fairly frequently to develop the shape/structure of the hedge, but cut allowing incremental growth in both height and width. Fencing off a recently layed hedge will prevent the regrowth being grazed. We recommend that no more than 5% of the hedges you manage should be layed or coppiced in any one year.
*Soil disturbance	2 / 2	
Total	19 / 22	

Biodiversity

Name	Score	Advice
Nutrient enrichment plants on either side should be less than 20% *	0 / 4	It looks like one or both sides of this hedge is suffering from excess nutrient enrichment shown by the cover of nutrient enrichment indicator plants such as nettles docks and cleavers. If this hedge borders an arable field, leaving a wider field margin can reduce the risks of excessive nutrient levels at the hedge base
No evidence of invasive species *	1 / 1	

Name	Score	Advice
Woody species count	4 / 4	Fantastic, 6 or more woody species per 30m makes this a biodiverse hedge.
Woody species spread (of dominant 5)	1 / 4	It looks like this hedge is dominated by one or two woody species. If and when you need to replant gaps, try to include a range of other woody species.
Perennial herbaceous vegetation *	2 / 2	
Hedge structure as food resource	4 / 4	The structure of this hedge means it is likely to provide a great food resource for wildlife
Number of species in food list (from 5 Dominant)	0 / 4	It looks like this hedge doesn't have many species that provide a good food resource for wildlife. If and when appropriate plant some of the species on the 'food list'.
Mature trees	2 / 2	
Young trees	2 / 2	
Total	16 / 27	