

Condition Assessment

F01 – Hedgerow and F02 – Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerow

This guidance note provides further detail on the method for undertaking the condition assessment for Hedgerows (F01) and Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows (F02).

Definitions

F01 Hedgerow

- Any boundary line of shrubs over 20m long and less than five metres wide, provided that at one time the trees and shrubs were more or less continuous. This includes newly planted hedges.

F02 Ancient and/or Species Rich Hedgerows

- Any boundary line of shrubs over 20m long and less than five metres wide, provided that at one time the trees and shrubs were more or less continuous. This includes newly planted hedges.
- A hedgerow that has five or more (four or more in Northern England) woody species on average within a 30m length (Guidance Note XX provides a full list of eligible native woody species).
- Hedges that contain fewer woody species but have rich basal flora or predate the Enclosure Act (1720-1870) are also included.

If the hedgerow does not fit the definitions above as it no longer functions as an effective boundary but is traceable due to remnant features see if the boundary is a 'Relict (out of use) boundary (H05)' on page 85 of the FEP Handbook. If this is the case use the condition assessment indicated.

How to mark boundaries on the map

Hedgerows should be numbered so they can be referred to accurately in the Environmental Data Sheet (part 2 of the FEP form). The same numbering series should be used for all field boundaries; hedges, walls and water-filled ditches – see example map. The numbering system should be based on a 'node to node' approach, with individual boundaries being identified by surveying between an end point and an intersection with another boundary or feature. If it is not clear where boundaries end these should be indicated using a short red line.

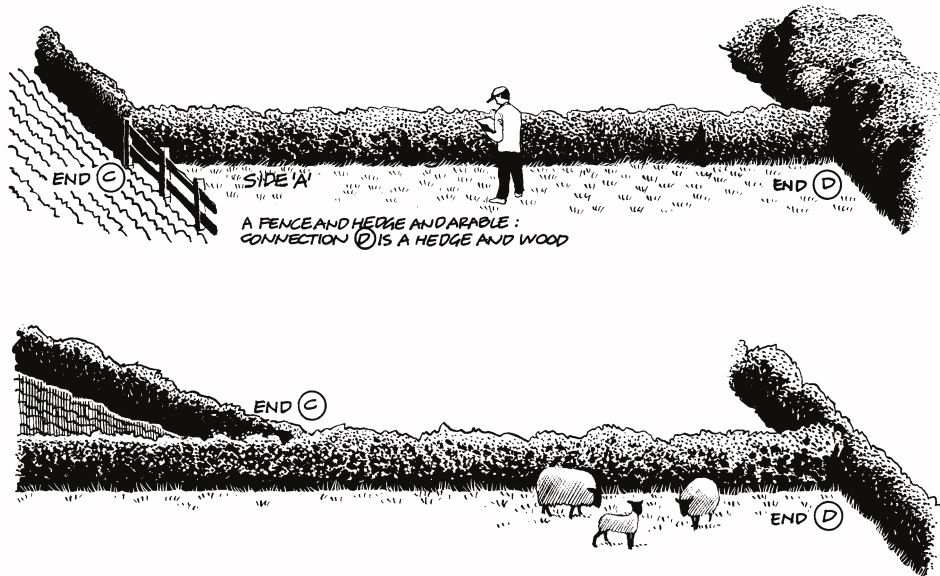
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The 'node to node' approach

To ensure that each length of hedge surveyed is clearly identifiable it is necessary to define the end points (C and D). These relate to the section between two ends (nodes/connections), or between an end and no hedge, or an end and another type of boundary.

Determining the extent of hedges using the node approach (adapted from Bickmore, C.J. 2002)



Condition assessment for F01/2

1	Height	The hedgerow must meet a minimum threshold of 2 metres in height.
2	Width	The hedgerow must meet a minimum threshold of 1.5 metres in width.
3	Continuity	No more than 10% of the hedgerow should be occupied by gaps and no one gap should be greater than 5 metres wide, this excludes access points and gates. (Where dormice or target species of bat are present on the holding there must be no gaps).

Do not condition assess hedges planted or managed (coppiced, laid or pollarded) within the last five years. Record the management style in the notes column. If there are sections of the hedge that would benefit from management (coppicing, laying, tree planting/management) you may recommend capital works and/or record in the 'Notes' column the type of work required.

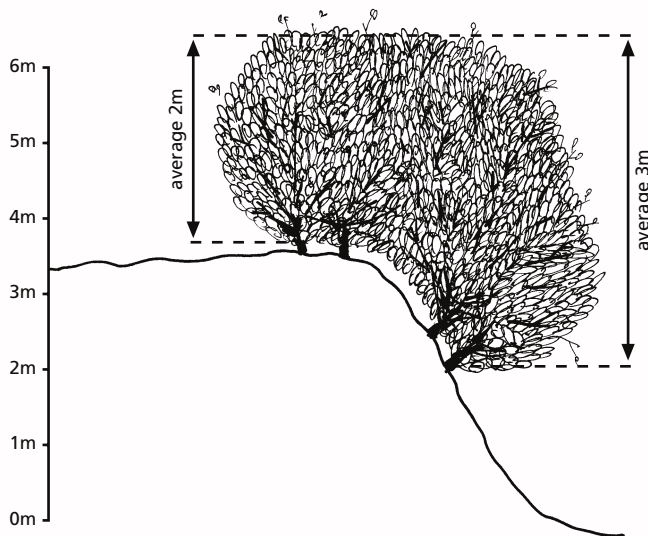
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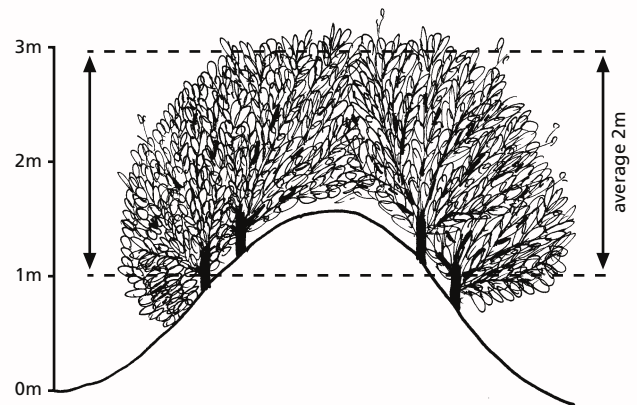
1. Height

Height – Assess the height of the woody component of the hedge from the base of the stems to the top of the shoots of the woody species. This must be assessed along the whole length of the hedge and the most common height used. Gaps are not included, nor are hedgerow trees. Where a bank is present the height of the bank must be excluded. If the bank is asymmetrical, the side with the lowest height should be assessed. The hedgerow must meet a minimum threshold of 2 metres in height.

i) Hedgerow on an asymmetrical bank. Average height 2m



ii) Hedgerow on a bank. Average height 2m



iii) Gaps are not included. Average height 2m

