

Appendix 5.3 Hedgerow Ecological Evaluation Criteria

Hedgerow ecological evaluation criteria			
Feature	High value (County Importance)	Moderate value (Local Importance – higher value)	Low value (Local Importance – lower value)
1. Average shrub canopy height (excluding treelines)	> 5m	2-5m	<2m
2. Average width at ground level	>4m	2-4m	<2m
3. Ground cover	Dense	Patchy	Little or none
4. Mature standard trees per 50m length	> 5	1-5	None
5. Gaps per 50m length	< 10%	10-30%	>30%
6. Connection to other hedges	>4	2-3	<2
7. Dominant tree and shrub species	Mainly native or naturalised* species	Mixed native or naturalised species and non-native species	Mainly non-native species
8. Hedge acting as a wildlife corridor linking adjacent semi- natural habitats that would otherwise be isolated	Yes	Yes	No
9. Diversity of tree or shrub species per 50m length	>7	4-7	<3
10. Ground flora	Typical diverse woodland flora present	Some woodland ground flora present	No woodland ground flora present
11. Epiphytic flora (e.g. bryophytes & lichens)	Diverse epiphytic flora present	Some epiphytic flora present	No epiphytic flora
12. Associated stream or drain	With permanent water	With seasonal water only	No
13. Associated hedge bank height	>1m in height	0.5-1m	None
14. Age	Veteran hedge (approx. >50 yrs) with high landscape value	Mature hedge (approx. 10-50 yrs) with some landscape value	Recent hedge (approx. <10yrs) with little landscape value
Total	/14	/14	/14
