

Important hedgerows criteria

The regulations specify in detail how the criteria are met. This is a simplified guide.

- Marks a pre-1850 parish or township boundary.
- Incorporates an archaeological feature.
- Is part of, or associated with, an archaeological site.
- Marks the boundary of, or is associated with, a pre-1600 estate or manor.
- Forms an integral part of a pre-Parliamentary enclosure field system.
- Contains certain categories of species of birds, animals or plants listed in the Wildlife and Countryside

Act or Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) publications.

Includes:

- a. at least 7 woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length;
- b. at least 6 woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length and has at least 3 associated features;
- c. at least 6 woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length, including a black-poplar tree, or large-leaved lime, or small-leaved lime, or wild service-tree; or
- d. at least 5 woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length and has at least 4 associated features.

(The number of woody species is reduced by one in northern counties. The list of 56 woody species comprises mainly shrubs and trees. It generally excludes climbers (such as clematis, honeysuckle and bramble) but includes wild roses.)

Runs alongside a bridleway, footpath, road used as a public path, or a byway open to all traffic and includes at least 4 woody species, on average, in a 30 metre length and has at least 2 of the associated features:

- a bank or wall supporting the hedgerow;
- less than 10% gaps;
- on average, at least one tree per 50 metres;
- at least 3 species from a list of 57 woodland plants;
- a ditch;
- a number of connections with other hedgerows, ponds or woodland; and
- a parallel hedge within 15 metres.