

Sussex Hedgerow Inventory Project

Survey Guidance Notes

(with apologies if we appear to be teaching grandmother/grandfather how to suck eggs!)

Safety – your safety and well-being is of paramount importance to you and us, but however much we appreciate your efforts, they must be undertaken at your own risk.

- Do not take any risks at all.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you are likely to return.
- It is safer and more fun if two or more people survey together.
- Take a mobile 'phone if you have one.
- Wear clothing that makes you as noticeable as possible.
- Do not survey on any roads, however quiet, in the absence of a footpath or safe verge.
- Do not survey after dark.
- Some plants are toxic, others may cause skin rash. Blackthorn scratches may become infected. Take care!
- Many of our best hedgerows have associated ditches, which may be deep and wet and are often well concealed. Again, take care!

General

- Please do not enter any private land without first obtaining the owner's permission.
- Do not forget your sandwiches, flask and lots of water.
- If you wear shorts and T-shirt, it will rain and you will be severely scratched all over. In between showers, you will become sunburnt.
- Take maps, compass, pocket lens, clip-board, field-guides, pencils, eraser, sharpener or knife, loads of survey forms and large, transparent, waterproof bags in which to keep everything dry.
- Have fun!

The survey form

Your personal details If you are surveying more than one hedgerow, completing your address and contact details just once will suffice. If you prefer that your contact details not be entered on computer records, please note the form accordingly.

Hedgerow details

Hedgerows defined Any boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m long and less than 5m wide, and where any gaps between the trees or shrub species are less than 20m wide.

Grid references If you can manage this, it is most helpful. If not, do not worry – as long as you can provide a clear site plan with identifiable features, we should be able to locate the hedgerow on our GIS computer programme

Hedgerow lengths The hedgerow starts or finishes at the point where it meets another hedgerow (see page 4 for examples). Gaps of 20 metres or less, including gateways, are counted as part of the hedgerow. Hedgerows are deemed to meet even if separated by a gateway or gap. If you don't have a measure, then pace out the length – an adult's long pace is about a metre. Don't get too uptight about exact distances.

For the identification and counting of woody species only

- If the hedgerow is less than 30 metres long, survey the full length.
- If it is from 30 to 100 metres long, survey the mid 30m length only.
- If it is from 100 to 200 metres long, survey the mid 30m length of each half only.
- If it more than 200 metres long, survey the mid 30m length of each third only.

See page 4 for examples. Mark each 30 metre length with sticks or you'll forget where you are!

(If you are surveying all the hedgerows within a grid square and any hedgerow crosses the edge of the square with the majority of its length lying within the square, please survey the full length of the hedgerow).

All other hedgerow data should reflect the full length of the hedgerow.

Standard trees and ground flora should be within 1 metre of the edge of a hedgerow. Use your own judgement to identify whether a tree is a standard - guidelines are: a single upright stem of more than 20 cm in diameter (at chest height) or two stems, each more than 15 cm in diameter (also at chest height).

Hedgerow species. The boxed lists of woody and woodland species on the survey form have been borrowed from the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. They contain some species that you will not find in Sussex, but I thought it would be improper to edit the list in any way. I have added three non-native trees to the bottom of the woody species table. You will also come across many species not listed in the boxes. If you find any unusual or ecologically interesting species, please make a note of them in the space provided. We have not included lists of the Wildlife and Countryside Act species; we can supply these if you wish or you can download them from the Internet – try Defra or Naturenet.

If you come across a wild service tree, *Sorbus torminalis*, anywhere in or adjacent to a hedgerow, please record its whereabouts for us. Also, please let us know if you see any Brown hairstreak butterflies, eggs or larvae.

[n.b. there are other protocols for surveying hedgerows including the Hedgerow Survey Handbook, which offers a standard procedure for local hedgerow surveys in the UK. This is a detailed 140 page document. It recommends surveying the second 30m of each hedgerow and also seeks Domin values for woody species; it also recommends the use of 2m x 1m quadrats at 10m and 20m (along the 30m length) to identify hedgerow ground flora species, again with Domin values. The handbook, which contains survey forms and species lists, may be obtained via Natural England's website at www.naturalengland.org.uk. Our view is that this is excellent guidance for monitoring and experimental replication but that our Sussex survey forms and guidance notes are simpler and better suited to the project we are currently undertaking. Use any protocol that suits you – it does not matter to us as long as we know which you are using].

Please return your survey forms to the address below. Your data will be recorded in a database and on a Geographical Information System Sussex hedgerow layer at the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre.

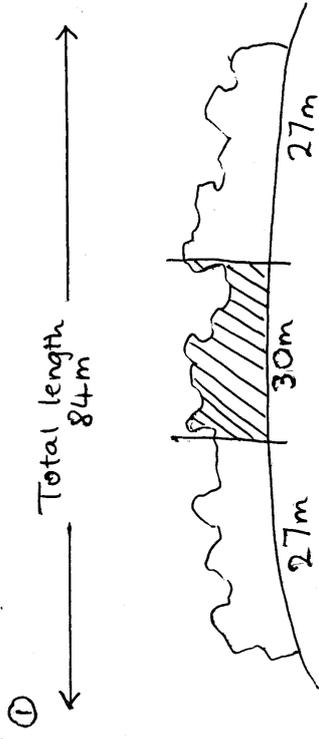
Contacts

If you need any further information or advice, please contact:-

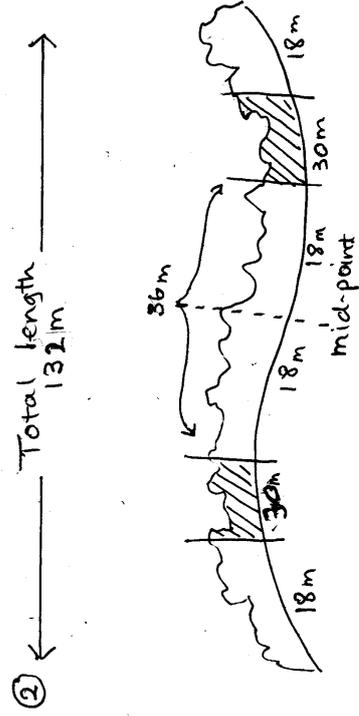
Peter Challis
Sussex Hedgerow Inventory Project
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
Woods Mill, Henfield, BN5 9SD

01273 497553 or hedgerows@sussexwt.org.uk; also for information, advice and downloads of forms etc., see: www.sxbrc.org.uk/projects/hedgerows

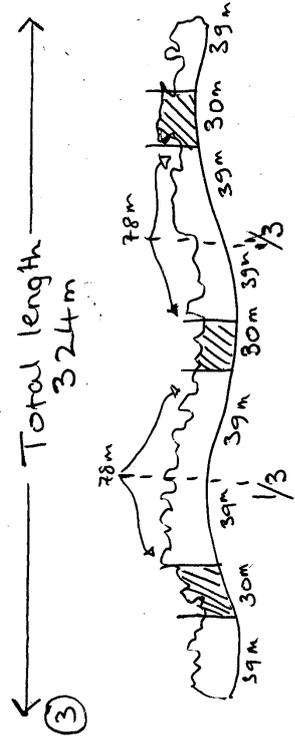
We would welcome feedback on the survey form, guidance notes or any other aspect of the survey arrangements – and we really do listen to you! Several improvements have been introduced as a result of your comments.



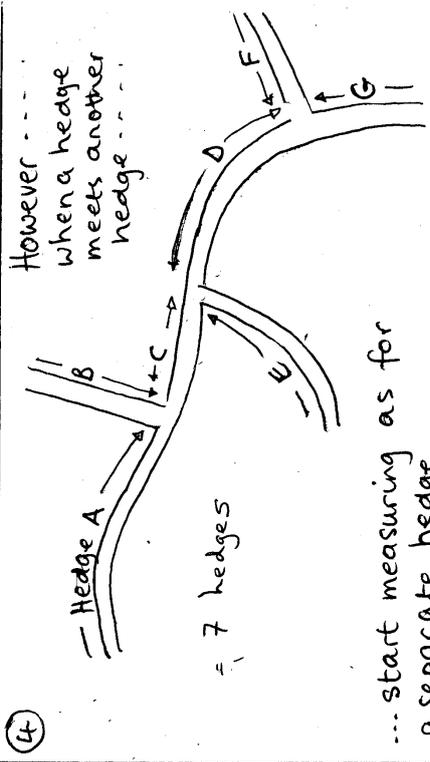
Up to 100m, survey one mid-30m only



Between 100m and 200m, divide hedge into 2 equal parts and survey mid-30m of each part.



Over 200m divide hedge into 3 equal parts. Survey mid-30m of each part.



However... when a hedge meets another hedge...

...start measuring as for a separate hedge. Survey mid-30m sections of each hedge as before.