

THE HEDGE (& WALL) IMPORTANCE TEST

The Hedge (& Wall) Importance Test (HIT) was devised by Robin Menneer FRICS MSc in response to the need for a simple, economical, accurate and non-invasive method of assessing hedges, hedgerows, hedgebanks and walls on a national basis. Its innovative scoring concept provides data compatible with the Hedgerows Regulations criteria and covers every type of hedge or wall while also taking into account regional, county and local distinctiveness.

Typically hedges score a mark from 4 to 7, indicating a fair to very good hedge which might be further improved in landscape and wildlife terms by suitable management. Often a hedge may score a higher individual mark for history, landscape or wildlife than its overall HIT mark. A hedge scoring below 4 marks in all three is less important, but will usually be capable of improvement, perhaps in time by at least two overall HIT marks, eg by establishing nearby habitat, planting in extra species and allowing trees to grow up.

Any hedge or wall scoring 8 or more marks overall, or 8 or more for any of its three individual marks, is precious and should be accorded a sensitive grade of care and preservation. Given the information entered, this hedge may qualify for protection under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997. The mark 10* indicates a highly outstanding hedge having scored above the number of points required for overall or individual HIT mark 10.

The hedge or wall record and HIT mark rely solely on the information entered on the HIT survey form. The plants entered on the HIT form are indicator species. They do not represent a full species count, but indicate the type and health of the hedge and pinpoint those hedges that may be worth a full species survey.

Scoring the hedge for the three individual HIT marks for landscape, wildlife and history gives a valuable indication of the type of care desirable to maintain its particular special value. Please note, the mean average of the three individual marks may not be the same as the overall HIT mark due to rounding differences.

RESULT OF SURVEY UNDER THE HEDGE (&WALL) IMPORTANCE TEST

This is to certify that the hedge / wall located at (grid ref.)

surveyed by (recorder)

on (date)

scored overall HIT mark (out of ten.)

The importance for Landscape scored HIT mark

for Wildlife HIT mark

and for History HIT mark