

HEDGE (& WALL) IMPORTANCE TEST (HIT)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WORKING OUT THE HIT MARK

Now you have filled in the survey form, transfer the answers you have entered in each question box to the points sheet, and using the instructions given here fill in each **Points** box (dotted lines) with the score for the letter or number you have entered. Where a score exceeds the maximum allowance, the maximum is allotted. The total points score divided by 20 will give the overall HIT mark.

1. Proximity to town/village. Score A=14, B=6, C=3, D=2.

Note: where A is scored, give no score (enter 0) for distant view, screening or seen from highway, under questions 2, 3 and 4. Go to question 5.

2. Distant view. Score A=1, B=2, C=4, D=6, N=0.

3. Screening. Score Y = 4. N=0.

4. Seen from highway. Score Y = 4. N=0.

5. Coastal exposure. Score A=8, B=12, C=16, N=0. Note: If this score =16, the score for question 22 =0.

6. County distinctiveness: Score Y = 4. N=0..

7. Local distinctiveness. Score Y = 2. N=0

8. Hedgebank structure. Score A=16, B=16, C=16, D=16, N=0.

9. Hedgebank height. Height (height on the shorter side if the two sides of the hedgebank/wall differ): score 0 for zero, 4 for 0.5m, plus 2 points for each 0.5m thereafter (max 12). If the difference in height of the two sides (difference in the figures in the two boxes) is 0.5m, score 3 points, 1.0-1.5m score 4 points, more than 1.5m score 6 points. Max 6. Add height and difference scores together. Maximum 18 points for the whole of question 9. N=0.

10. Hedge furniture. If one or more boxes is filled in with A to E, score 5. N=0. Max 5.

11. Associated features: Score for:- A=2, B=4, C=2, D=7, E=7, F=3, G=5, H=5, J=18, K=5, L=10. For A2, B2 &c double the score for that feature. Where more than one feature box is filled in, the scores are added together. Max 28 in total.

12. Hedge growth. Score A=16, B=16, C=16, D =10, E=7.

13. Tree species. Number of tree species, score 2 points for each species up to 5. For no trees N=0. Max 10.

14. Tree count. Score 1 point for each tree, max 10 points. For no trees, N=0.

15. Largest tree. To score size of trees, largest diameter in cm, score 2 points for each 15cm of diameter. If more than 45cm, score 7. For no trees, N=0. Max 7.

16. Indicator species: Score 5 each for A, B, C, E, F, G, H and I. Score D=10, J=10, K=10, L=5, M=5, R=5, S=5, N=0. Where more than one box is filled in, add scores together. Max 30.

17. Historic sites or monuments. Score A=15, B=10, C=5, N=0, P=5. Max 15.

18. Historic function. Score A=10, B=5, N=0. Max 15.

19. Historic maps. Score A=30, B=20, C=10, D=5, P=25.

20. Boundary pattern. Score A=25, B=20, C=10, N=0, P=10.

21. Run-off prevention. Score A=10, B=6, C=2 and multiply this score by the number of contours (number in lower box). 0 (zero) in box, score as for 1. If result exceeds 16 points, score max 16. N=0.

22. Altitude. Score 1 point for 150 metres, and 1 point for each 10m thereafter. This score added to the score for question 5 must not exceed 16. If the two scores add up to more than 16, reduce altitude score until the two scores added together total 16. If the score for question 5 = 0, enter altitude score up to maximum 16.

23. Adjacent to highway: If more than one box is entered, score only for the letter with the highest points score: A=10, B=9, C=8, D=7, E=6, N=0. Max 10.

24. Hedge length. Score 3 points for every 100m, max 12 points. Below 100m, score 0.

THE HIT MARK (marks-out-of-ten). Add up all the points scored, and divide the result by 20 to get the overall HIT mark. Round this to the nearest half-mark eg 4.7 becomes 4½, and 4.8 becomes 5. For any hedge scoring more than 200 points record HIT mark 10* (ten star).

Typically hedges score from 4 to 7 marks, indicating a fair to very good hedge which might be further improved by suitable management, and may already score more highly in either landscape, wildlife or history. A hedge scoring below 4 marks in all three is less important, but might be improved. Any hedge scoring 8 or more marks is precious and should be given a sensitive grade of care and preservation. 10* indicates a highly outstanding hedge having scored above the number of points required for HIT mark 10.