

Heritage hedgerows and the landscape

Hedgerows form an important aspect of the heritage value of the local landscape, being a direct living connection with past land-use and cultural history, boundaries and highways. Most hedgerows were created during the process of enclosure (i.e. when boundaries were put in to define the edge of people's land or to keep stock in pastures). Large areas of the land in the borough of Redcar and Cleveland were enclosed by private agreement during the period of early enclosure (i.e. before 1720). In fact a lot of land was actually enclosed even earlier during medieval times! In contrast, the land around the Tees estuary and the moorland was only enclosed during the period of parliamentary enclosure (i.e. after 1720).

Hedgerows are also important for biodiversity. They are a significant wildlife habitat over large stretches of lowland UK providing essential refuge for many woodland and farmland plants and animals. The more species-rich a hedgerow is, the greater its biodiversity value.

Features characteristic of old hedgerows

Hedgebank - an earth bank or mound on which a hedgerow is planted.



Ditch - a drainage channel running alongside a hedgerow.

Coppicing - the practice of periodically cutting down shrubs to allow regeneration; recognised by multiple stems growing at the base of the shrub.

Layering - the practice of partially cutting through the stems of a shrub near to the base and bending the stem over to form a barrier; recognised by large horizontal or diagonal stems (pleachers).

Species - the presence of particular species, for example Field Maple, Guelder-rose and Hazel.

Species-richness - the average number of shrubs per 30-metre length of hedgerow; a hedgerow is species-rich in the north of England if the average is 4.0 or more.

Woodland ground flora - plants indicative of ancient woodland that grow in the hedge-bottom, for example Bluebell, Primrose and Violet.

About the 'Heritage Hedgerows of Redcar and Cleveland' Project

The 'Heritage Hedgerows of Redcar and Cleveland' project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, was carried out by the Wildflower Ark and their volunteers, in association with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Tees Archaeology and the Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Wildflower Ark would like to thank everyone who has worked on this project, and all the farmers who have kindly allowed access to their land.

Further Information

Further information on the 'Heritage Hedgerows of Redcar and Cleveland' project can be obtained from:

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Heritage Hedgerows of Redcar and Cleveland



Discover old hedgerows around Redcar and Cleveland

Information on old hedgerows and their characteristic features

Four heritage hedgerows to visit across the borough

A 2-mile circular self-guided walk around the hedgerows of Moorsholm

Heritage hedgerows around the borough of Redcar and Cleveland

There are a large number of interesting hedgerows across the borough of Redcar and Cleveland and a lot of them possess features characteristic of an old hedgerow, including 450 that are species-rich. Many of these hedgerows run alongside old lanes and public rights of way. To the right are four examples of heritage hedgerows, and on the centre page there is a self-guided circular walk looking at the heritage hedgerows around Moorsholm.



How to get there

1. Lazenby Bank Road, Lazenby

From the lay-by on the westbound carriageway of the A174, opposite Lazenby village, walk east along the tree-lined road for approximately 200m and then turn right onto Lazenby Bank Road.

2. Sandy Lane, New Marske

From the car park at Errington Woods, follow the footpath (leading from the south east corner) through the wood for approximately 150m. Turn right and follow the path up through the wood to Sandy Lane.

3. Green Lane, Skelton Green

From Skelton Green village, follow Trout Hall Lane for approximately 150m and turn left (just before allotments) onto Green Lane.

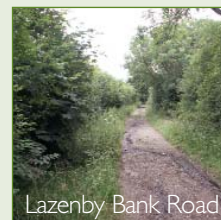
4. Park House Lane, Liverton

From the T-junction in the centre of Liverton village, follow Moorsholm Lane for approximately 200m and turn right onto Park House Lane.

1. Lazenby Bank Road, Lazenby

Lazenby Bank Road is present on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map from 1855 and may have been used to access the Ironstone Mines on the moor. The lane appears to be sunken in parts (a characteristic of an old hollow way) and is bounded on both sides by high hedge banks that are around 2m high. There is also a shallow ditch on the west side, between the bank and the lane.

Most of the hedgerows along Lazenby Bank Road are species-rich, with species counts between 4.0 and 5.0. On the east side there are some large coppiced Ash trees, whilst on the west side there are some good examples of layered hawthorn, and an old, coppiced Crab Apple tree.



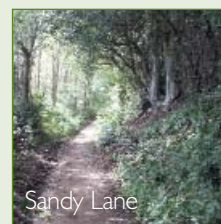
Lazenby Bank Road



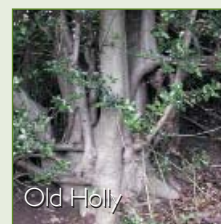
Crab Apple

2. Sandy Lane, New Marske

Sandy Lane is the old lane linking Marske and Upleatham and it appears on the Marske and Upleatham Estate Map of 1773. At the eastern end the lane is sunken and passes between two high hedgebanks. The hedgerows along Sandy Lane contain numerous examples of coppiced trees, including Ash, Sycamore and Holly. Some of these coppice stools are very large and are a considerable age. There are two large Oak trees on the south side of the lane, one of which has a circumference of about 5.50m and is classified as 'valuable' on the veteran tree database.



Sandy Lane



Old Holly

3. Green Lane, Skelton

Green Lane appears on the Skelton and Brotton Estate Map of 1773, and sections of the lane are sunken.

Some of the hedgerows along Green Lane are species-rich, with average counts up to 5.50, and they all exhibit characteristics of an old hedgerow. For example, many of the hedgerows contain large, multi-stemmed Hollies, and old layered Hawthorns. The hedges leading up from Trout Hall Lane have half hedge banks and contain lots of Hazel, and there is a large, coppiced Ash tree on the bend next to the entrance to the allotments.



Hazelnuts



Layered Hawthorn

4. Park House Lane, Liverton

Park House Lane is an old lane to the west of the village of Liverton. The lane is present on the Map of the Lordship of Liverton from 1753 and it passes through areas of early medieval enclosure, some of which is medieval. The hedgerows along Park House Lane are some of the most species-rich hedgerows around Liverton, with average species counts of up to 6.70. They contain a large variety of hedgerow species, including Field Maple, Guelder-rose and Hazel, as well as unusual hedgerow shrubs such as Rowan and Lime. Lime is only found in a few hedgerows around the Liverton area and is not present in hedgerows elsewhere in the borough!



Lime at Liverton