Are we missing the true value of semi-natural and linear habitats in agricultural landscape mosaics?

H1: Low-lying, intensively managed (flailed) hedge.
Does not contain trees or woody elements. Up to approximately 1.5 metres in height; average width 2.5 metres.

H2: Contains small/ juvenile trees or taller shrub-like species. Less intensively managed than H1. Greater than 1.5 metres in height; average width 7 metres. H3: Woody hedge, contains mature trees. Appears structurally similar to a linear strip of broadleaved woodland when viewed from an aerial perspective. Average width 15 metres.



Fig. 1: A hedge is not just "a hedge" – classification of different hedgerow types based on their vegetation structure using field surveys and aerial imagery (observed from 250 m above sea level in Google Maps (Terra Metrics, 2013)).

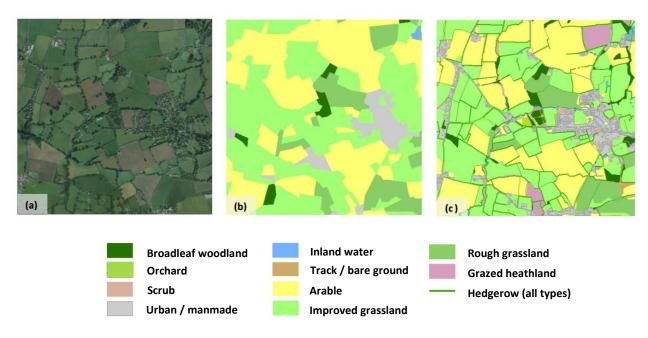


Fig. 2: Comparison of a typical 2 x 2 km study landscape mosaic. (a) 'Real' landscape. (b) Landscape classified according to broad landcover types – all semi-natural habitats are represented in 'mid' green. (c) Landscape classified to account for different semi-natural habitats and linear features (as shown in the legend).