



# **Hedgerow Assessment & Report**

Land at Chidswell, Dewsbury

Report reference: R-3280-09

July 2018

---

Report Title:	Hedgerow Assessment & Report Land at Chidswell, Dewsbury
Report Reference:	R-3280-09
Written by	Christopher Shaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM Senior Ecologist
Technical review:	Peter Brooks BSc (Hons), MA, MCIEEM, CEnv Managing Director
QA review:	Jacob Lawson BSc (Hons) Field Ecologist
Approved for issue	Peter Brooks BSc (Hons), MA, MCIEEM, CEnv Managing Director
Date	02.07.18

---



Unit A, 1 Station Road, Guiseley, Leeds, LS20 8BX  
Phone: **01943 884451**  
**01943 879129**  
Email: [admin@brooks-ecological.co.uk](mailto:admin@brooks-ecological.co.uk)  
[www.brooks-ecological.co.uk](http://www.brooks-ecological.co.uk)  
Registered in England Number 5351418



### Summary Statement

The site supports a network of relatively species and structurally poor hedgerows, with only three which can be defined as 'Important' under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997.

A suitable landscaping scheme should be produced, which strives for a 'no net loss' in hedgerow cover, and which maintains connectivity.

## Introduction

1. Subsequent to recommendations set out in the WYG, December 2016, Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey Report (Ref. A054074), Brooks Ecological Ltd were commissioned by the Church Commissioners for England to carry out a detailed Hedgerow Survey within the proposed development Site in Chidswell.
2. The survey was required to clarify whether any of the hedgerows within the Site are afforded protection under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 and also to assess the value of the hedgerows and hedgerow network with regard to the species present and/or their value as functioning wildlife corridors for faunal groups.

### Box 1 Hedgerow Definition

The Hedgerow Regulations apply to any hedgerow growing in, or adjacent to, any common land, protected land, or land used for agriculture, forestry or the breeding or keeping of horses, ponies or donkeys, that have:

- a continuous length of, or exceeding, 20 metres; or
- a continuous length of less than 20 metres and, at each end, meets another hedgerow (whether by intersection or junction).

The Regulations do not apply to any hedgerow within the curtilage of, or marking a boundary of the curtilage of, a dwelling-house.

The end of a hedgerow is defined as the point at which it meets another hedgerow, whether by intersection or junction (termed as the node point). Any gap not exceeding 20 metres is treated as part of the hedgerow.

### Box 2 Important Hedgerow

A hedgerow is defined as important under the Hedgerow Regulations if it has existed for 30 years or more and satisfies at least one of the criteria listed below:

1. The hedgerow marks the boundary of a historic parish or township existing before 1850;
2. The hedgerow contains or is within an archaeological feature which is on the Sites and Monuments Record, or a pre-1600 manor or estate;
3. The hedgerow is a part of, or associated with, a field system predating the Inclosure Acts;
4. The hedgerow is adjacent to a public right of way (not counting an adopted highway) and at least 4 woody species as defined in Schedule 3 of the regulations plus at least two Associated Features
5. The hedgerows contains any species listed under Schedule 1 Part I, Schedule 5 or Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; categorised as a declining breeder (category 3) in "Red Data Birds in Britain"; or categorised as "endangered", "extinct", "rare" or "vulnerable" in Britain.
6. The hedgerow meets one or more of the following criteria:
  - at least 7 woody species;
  - at least 6 woody species and at least 3 associated features;
  - at least 6 woody species, including one of the following - black-poplar tree (*Populus nigra ssp betulifolia*), large-leaved lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*), small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata*), wild service-tree (*Sorbus torminalis*);
  - at least 5 woody species and at least 4 associated features;

Where the hedgerow in question is situated wholly or partly in the county of the City of Kingston upon Hull, Cumbria, Darlington, Durham, East Riding of Yorkshire, Hartlepool, Lancashire, Middlesbrough, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, Tyne and Wear, West Yorkshire or York, the number of required woody species mentioned above should be reduced by one.

### Box 3 Associated Features

1. A bank or wall which supports the hedgerow along at least one half of its length;
2. Gaps which in aggregate do not exceed 10% of the length of the hedgerow;
3. Has at least one standard trees per 50m of hedgerow. A standard tree is defined as having a diameter of at least 20cm (when single stemmed) or has at least two stems of at least 15cm (when multi-stemmed) when measured at a point 1.3 metres from natural ground level;
4. At least 3 woodland species within one metre, in any direction, of the outermost edges of the hedgerow;
5. A ditch along at least one half of the length of the hedgerow;
6. Connections scoring 4 points or more, where connection to a hedgerow counts as one point and a broad-leaved woodland or pond counts as two points;
7. A parallel hedge within 15 metres of the hedgerow;

3. Hedgerows are listed as habitats of Principle Importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006 and as Priority Habitats within the Kirklees Biodiversity Action Plans; impacts upon this habitat would need to be considered during the planning process regardless of their value under the Hedgerow Regulations.

## Methodology

4. Survey was carried out on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and followed the methodology set out in the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 and the Hedgerow Survey Handbook (DEFRA, 2007). This involved walking the Site and mapping hedgerows as defined in Box 1.
5. The full length of each hedgerow was then walked and data relevant to the assessment was collected, such as the number of woody species, ground flora, dimensions, public right of way and associated features.
6. The woody species count was obtained following the guidelines set out in the Hedgerows Regulations, as summarised below:
  - hedgerows less than or equal to 30m - all of the woody species are counted;
  - hedgerows between 30m – 100m - a count is taken from the central 30m;
  - hedgerows between 100 – 200m - a count is taken from the central stretch of 30 metres within each half of the hedgerow and the counts divided by two;
  - hedgerows exceeding 200 metres – a count is taken from the central stretch of 30 metres within each third of the hedgerow and the counts divided by three.

## Results

### Overview of hedgerow network

7. The Site supports a disjointed network of generally short, species-poor hedgerows which are heavily managed and mostly intact hedge. Within the Site's interior, much of the network is maintained at around 2m high, with boundary sections being less intensively managed and allowed to reach in excess of 4-5m tall.
8. The dominant species across the Site is hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), with frequent elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and occasional oak (*Quercus robur*), hazel (*Corylus avellana*), field maple (*Acer campestre*) holly (*Ilex aquifolium*). Goat willow (*Salix caprea*), blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), crab apple (*Malus sylvestris*), silver birch (*Betula pendula*), whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*), rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*), field rose (*Rosa* sp.), dog rose (*Rosa* sp.), common honeysuckle and ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) are all recorded in very small amounts.
9. Standard trees are rare across the hedgerow network, with most being found towards the northern end of the Site. Oak (*Quercus robur*) is the most common encountered species with smaller amounts of other species.
10. The ground flora and field margins adjacent to the hedgerows are generally narrow and dominated by common rank grasses and tall herbs, with no rare or notable species being recorded.

### Hedgerow Regulations Assessment

11. All onsite hedgerows have been mapped (see Figure 1 overleaf) and a summary of the data collected for the Hedgerow Regulations assessment can be seen in Table 1 overleaf.
12. Three of the hedgerows can be defined as 'Important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997; these being Hedgerows 7, 9 & 28, which are classed as important by virtue of them containing at least 6 woody species within the central 30m.
13. Hedgerows 14, 24, 25, 30 and 31 just fall short of being classified as important, due to either one too few woody species or associated features, or by not being adjacent to a Public Right of Way (PRoW).

**Table 1** Summary of the hedgerow survey

Hedge	Dimensions			Woody sp. Count	Associated Features							PRoW	Important under Hedgerow Regs
	Length (m)	Height (m)	Width (m)		Bank/Wall (≥50%)	Gaps (≤10%)	Tree / 50m	Ground flora (≥3)	Ditch (≥50%)	Connections (≥4)	Parallel hedge		
1	370	1.5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	No
2	210	1.5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	No
3	340	1.5-2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
4	180	1	0.75	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
5	310	5+	3to4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
6	65	5+	4to5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
7	75	5+	5	7	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	Yes
8	220	2to3	1.5to2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
9	60	4	3	6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
10	265	4	4.5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	No
11	180	2	1.5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
12	100	2	1to1.5	4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	No
13	125	1to1.5	0.5to1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
14	480	4to5	4	5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
15	130	1.5	1to1.5	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
16	80	1.5	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
17	90	2	1.5	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	No
18	55	4	3	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
19	220	2.5	1.5	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	No
20	75	3to4	2	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	No
21	150	1.5to2	1.5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	No
22	145	2.5to3	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
23	195	2.5	1.5to2	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
24	280	2	1.5	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
25	150	5+	4+	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	No
26	155	5+	3to4	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	No
27	160	4	3to4	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	No
28	110	3	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Yes
29	65	4	2.5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No
30	180	5+	4	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	No
31	160	3to4	2to3	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	No

**Figure 1** Hedgerow Plan. Yellow lines = important hedgerows. White lines = hedgerows (not important). Black lines = PRow



## Conclusion & Recommendations

14. Hedgerows labelled H7, H9 & H28 on Figure 1 all meet the criteria for 'Important' status under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Should development result in the loss or degradation of any of these hedgerows, then a suitable mitigation and compensation strategy will need to be produced and implemented.
15. The remaining hedgerows, although not qualifying as Important, will all meet the criteria for Habitat of Principle Importance under the NERC Act 2006 and Priority Habitat under the local BAP. On this basis, the scheme should aim for a 'no net loss' in hedgerow cover, with the landscape plan incorporating an equal or greater amount of diverse, native hedgerow to that that is lost. Wherever feasible, the preference should be to retain, protect and enhance existing hedgerows in situ.
16. Although generally species and structurally poor, the hedgerow network will have some function as a corridor for local faunal groups, such as bats moving from potential roosts within neighbouring housing to the west, out into the wider countryside. Retaining functional green corridors through the Site, either in the way of hedgerow, tree or woodland planting, should therefore be a material consideration during the design of the masterplan.

## References

Hedgerows Regulations 1997 < <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/regulation/1/made>> view on 22.10.13.

Defra (2007). Hedgerow Survey Handbook – A standard procedure for local surveyed in the UK (2<sup>nd</sup> edition).