



## Hedgerow Survey

**Land at Chalks Farm, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire.**

**On Behalf of:**

**Barratt Homes**

**May 2014**

**© SES 2014**

[www.ses-eco.co.uk](http://www.ses-eco.co.uk)

Author	Sean Crossland BSc BCA
Technical Review	Stuart Pankhurst MCIEEM BSc MSc
Report Status	Final
Date of Issue	09.05.2014

**Professional Service • Pragmatic Solutions**  
Ecology, Arboriculture, Countryside Management

Phone: 01268 711 021 Email: [team@ses-eco.co.uk](mailto:team@ses-eco.co.uk) website: [www.ses-eco.co.uk](http://www.ses-eco.co.uk)  
Address: Unit 1, The Sudbury Stables, Sudbury Road, Downham, Essex, CM11 1LB

## **Contents**

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Hedgerow Assessment</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>References</b>	<b>6</b>

## **Appendices**

**Appendix 1: Important Hedgerows Under the Wildlife and Landscape Criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997**

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A hedgerow survey was undertaken by Southern Ecological Solutions Ltd on behalf of Barratt Homes Ltd. at the land at Chalks Farm, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 A total of 8 hedgerows were assessed in accordance with the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997(HMSO 1997).
- 1.3 Hedgerows assessed as important under the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 require permission from the local planning authority before they can be removed in whole or in part.
- 1.4 To be considered important a hedgerow has to have been in existence for 30 years or more and satisfy at least one of the criteria listed in part II of schedule 1 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- 1.5 Species are described in the text by their common and scientific names in the first instance, and thereafter by their common name only. Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) New Flora of the British Isles.
- 1.6 The survey was completed in July 2013 during bright and dry weather conditions by suitably qualified ecologist Sean Crossland BSc BCA.

## 2.0 Hedgerow Assessment

### Hedgerow 1

- 2.1 This field boundary hedgerow runs parallel with Sawbridgeworth Brook and is tall and loosely managed with multiple standard trees. Occasional standing deadwood is present, considered of significant ecological value.
- 2.2 Ground flora species along hedgerow 1 (Appendix 1) consisted of false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, bramble *Rubus sp.*, cock's foot *Dactylis glomerata*, creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* and common nettle *Urtica dioica*. Climbers observed include ivy *Hedera helix* and white bryony *Bryonia dioica*. No woodland species were observed as defined in schedule 2 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997), with ground flora not considered particularly diverse.
- 2.3 The assessment is as follows:
  - Length: c.200m requiring survey to the central 30m sections in each half.
  - Woody species section 1: blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, field maple *Acer campestre*, common hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, elder *Sambucus nigra*, elm *Ulmus sp.*, dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*.
  - Woody species section 2: blackthorn, field maple, common hawthorn, elder, rose *Rosa sp.*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*.
  - Associated features: Less than 10% gaps, 1 standard tree per 50m, ditch.
  - Woodland species: none.
- 2.4 With an aggregate of 6.5 woody species and 3 associated features hedgerow 1 is considered species rich, meets the defining criteria in part 2 of schedule 1 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 and is therefore considered **important** under the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997).

### Hedgerow 2

- 2.5 This field boundary hedgerow also runs parallel with Sawbridgeworth Brook and is tall but tightly managed with sparse ground flora. Occasional standing deadwood is again present, considered of significant ecological value. This field boundary hedgerow runs adjacent to a public path.
- 2.6 Ground flora species along hedgerow 2 (Appendix 1) consisted of frequent barren brome *Anisantha sterilis* and garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*. With occasional common couch *Elytrigia repens* and cleavers *Galium aparine*. Climbers observed included ivy and traveller's joy *Clematis vitalba*. No woodland species were observed as defined in schedule 2 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997), with ground flora considered poor.
- 2.7 The assessment is as follows:
- Length: c.160m requiring survey to central 30m sections within each half.
  - Woody species section 1: common hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, hazel, elm.
  - Woody species section 2: common hawthorn, blackthorn, elder, elm.
  - Associated features: less than 10% gaps, ditch.
  - Woodland species: none
- 2.8 Hedgerow 2 displays an aggregate of 4.5 woody species, is adjacent a public footpath and has two associated features. As such hedgerow 2 is considered **important** under the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997).

### Hedgerow 3

- 2.9 This field boundary hedgerow is uniform and tightly managed with typical arable field margins to its base.
- 2.10 Ground flora along hedgerow 3 (Appendix 1) consisted of abundant wild oat *Avena fatua* and perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne*. With common nettle and cleavers frequent. No woodland species were observed as defined in schedule 2 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997), with ground flora not considered particularly diverse.
- 2.11 The assessment is as follows:
- Length: c.120m requiring survey to central 30m sections within each half.
  - Woody species section 1: blackthorn, common hawthorn, elder.
  - Woody species section 2: blackthorn, common hawthorn, elder.
  - Associated features: less than 10% gaps.
  - Woodland species: none
- 2.12 Hedgerow 3 displays an aggregate of 3 woody species and has one associated feature. As such hedgerow 3 is considered **not important** under the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997).

#### Hedgerow 4

- 2.13** This field boundary hedgerow is again uniform and tightly managed with typical arable field margins to its base. Blackthorn is abundant to the northern extent with diversity increasing towards the south.
- 2.14** Ground flora along hedgerow 4 (Appendix 1) was similar to that of hedgerow 3 and consisted of abundant wild oat. With common couch, false oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and cow parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* frequent. Climbers observed included traveller's joy and white bryony. No woodland species were observed as defined in schedule 2 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997), with ground flora not considered particularly diverse.
- 2.15** The assessment is as follows:
- Length: c.165m requiring survey to central 30m sections within each half.
  - Woody species section 1: blackthorn, common hawthorn, elder, dogwood, wild privet *Ligustrum vulgare*.
  - Woody species section 2: blackthorn, common hawthorn, elder, dogwood, rose.
  - Associated features: less than 10% gaps.
  - Woodland species: none
- 2.16** Hedgerow 4 displays an aggregate of 5 woody species and has one associated feature. As such hedgerow 4 is considered **not important** under the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997).

#### Hedgerow 5

- 2.17** This field boundary hedgerow runs along the southern boundary of site. It is loosely managed and has frequent standard field maples. Occasional standing deadwood is again present, and considered of significant ecological value.
- 2.18** Ground flora along hedgerow 5 (Appendix 1) consisted of frequent common couch and garlic mustard. With cow parsley, wild oat and wood avens *Geum urbanum* also present. One woodland species was observed as defined in schedule 2 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997), with ground flora considered not particularly diverse.
- 2.19** The assessment is as follows:
- Length: c.120m requiring survey to central 30m sections within each half.
  - Woody species section 1: common hawthorn, field maple, rose, blackthorn, elder.
  - Woody species section 2: common hawthorn, field maple, rose, blackthorn, elder.
  - Associated features: 1 standard tree per 50m, less than 10% gaps.
  - Woodland species: wood avens *Geum urbanum*
- 2.20** Hedgerow 5 displays an aggregate of 5 woody species, has two associated features and is adjacent to a public footpath. As such hedgerow 5 is considered **not important** under the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997).

### Hedgerow 6

- 2.21 This field boundary hedgerow is located along the southern boundary that is largely devoid of hedgerows. The small section of hedgerow is tightly managed with thin associated margins.
- 2.22 Ground flora along hedgerow 6 (appendix 1) consisted of common arable grasses such as soft brome *Bromus hordeaceus* agg., barren brome, wild oat and false oat-grass. With common nettle, hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* and spear thistle *Cirsium vulgare* also present. Climbers observed included traveller's joy, white bryony, black bryony *Tamus communis*, bramble *Rubus* sp. and hedge bindweed *Calystegia sepium*. No woodland species were observed as defined in schedule 2 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997), with ground flora considered not particularly diverse.
- 2.23 The assessment is as follows:
- Length: c.120m requiring survey to central 30m sections within each half.
  - Woody species section 1: common hawthorn, field maple, hazel, blackthorn, elder, dogwood.
  - Woody species section 2: common hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, elder.
  - Associated features: less than 10% gaps, ditch
  - Woodland species: none
- 2.24 Hedgerow 6 displays an aggregate of 5 woody species, has two associated features. As such hedgerow 6 is considered **not important** under the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997).

### Hedgerow 7

- 2.25 This field boundary hedgerow is located along the western boundary and is tightly managed in the south grading to being more outgrown with a line of trees at its northern extent.
- 2.26 Ground flora along hedgerow 7 (appendix 1) consisted of frequent common arable grasses such as barren brome, wild oat and false oat-grass. With spear thistle, field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* also present. Climbers observed included traveller's joy, white bryony, black bryony and bramble. No woodland species were observed as defined in schedule 2 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997), with ground flora considered not particularly diverse.
- 2.27 The assessment is as follows:
- Length: c.195m requiring survey to central 30m sections within each half.
  - Woody species section 1: common hawthorn, field maple, rose, blackthorn, elder, dogwood.
  - Woody species section 2: common hawthorn, field maple, rose, blackthorn, elm, dogwood, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, pedunculate oak *Quercus robur*.
  - Associated features: less than 10% gaps, ditch, 1 standard tree per 50m.
  - Woodland species: none
- 2.28 Hedgerow 7 displays an aggregate of 7 woody species, has three associated features. As such hedgerow 7 is considered **important** under the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997).

### Hedgerow 8

- 2.29** This field boundary hedgerow is located along the northern boundary adjacent West Road and is relatively loosely managed with frequent standard ash trees.
- 2.30** Ground flora along hedgerow 8 (appendix 1) consisted of frequent common arable grasses such as barren brome and false oat-grass. With cleavers, ivy and common nettle also present. No woodland species were observed as defined in schedule 2 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997), with ground flora considered not particularly diverse.
- 2.31** The assessment is as follows:
- Length: c.135m requiring survey to central 30m sections within each half.
  - Woody species section 1: common hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, elder, dogwood, hazel, ash.
  - Woody species section 2: common hawthorn, field maple, blackthorn, elder, dogwood, hazel, ash.
  - Associated features: less than 10% gaps, ditch, 1 standard tree per 50m.
  - Woodland species: none
- 2.32** Hedgerow 8 displays an aggregate of 7 woody species, has three associated features. As such hedgerow 8 is considered **important** under the Wildlife and Landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997).

### **3.0** Conclusions

- 3.1** Hedgerows 1, 2, 7 and 8 are classified as **important** under wildlife and landscape criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997). Hedgerows 3, 4, 5 and 6 are classified as **not important** under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997).
- 3.2** The hedgerows considered important under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997) (hedgerows 1, 2, 7 and 8) should ideally be incorporated into the layout of the site and retained. Hedgerow retention may not be possible in all instances and the removal of hedgerows or (part of) to which the regulations apply is permitted if it is a requirement for carrying out development for which planning permission has been granted or deemed to have been granted and in other circumstances set out under Regulation 6 of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (HMSO 1997). It is recommended that if protected hedgerows are removed, replacement native species rich hedgerow planting should be provided to compensate for this loss.
- 3.3** Additionally, all hedgerows on site can be classed as a habitat of principle importance under the United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP)/ Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act. As such it is recommended that hedgerows are retained and ideally enhanced where possible within the development layout and any loss is compensated for, in accordance with chapter 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework (DfCLG, 2012).
- 3.4** Notwithstanding this, any potential direct impacts upon the ecologically valuable features onsite will be mitigated for through design of the master plan to ensure that all hedgerows are retained and protected. Indirect impacts (edge effects) upon these features will also be mitigated for through extensive boundary plantings (as well as employing pollution prevention methods) which will, in addition, provide an enhancement to the existing boundary habitats as well as create new ecologically

valuable habitats on site (woodland and woodland edge). It is recommended that hedgerows are managed to retain any standing/fallen deadwood to as much as public safety considerations allow.

- 3.5** As such it is considered that any adverse impacts associated with development upon hedgerows can be wholly mitigated for. The planned mitigation is expected to result in a net positive benefit to the biodiversity of the site through the retention, enhancement and creation of ecologically valuable habitats. In turn these habitats will provide benefits to several protected species that may be present within the wider landscape. As such, the proposed site can be developed in accordance with Policy *SAWB3 Land to the south of West Road* of East Hertfordshire Council's Draft District Plan (2014), chapter 11: *Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment* of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) and relevant wildlife legislation.

#### **4.0** References

HMSO (1997). *The Hedgerow Regulations 1997* – Statutory Instrument 1997 No. 1160

JNCC (2010), *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit*. JNCC

Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). *National Planning Policy Framework*. [Internet]. Available from: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk).

East Hertfordshire Council (2014). *Draft District Plan: Preferred Options Consultation 2014*. [http://easthertsconsult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/district\\_plan\\_preferred\\_options?pointId=2445576#document-2445576](http://easthertsconsult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/district_plan_preferred_options?pointId=2445576#document-2445576). Accessed May 2014.

Stace C. A. (1997). *New flora of the British Isles*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.

# Appendix 1: Important Hedgerows Under the Wildlife and Landscape Criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997



**KEY**

- Site boundary
- Species-rich hedgerow
- Running water
- Arable land
- Defunct species-rich hedgerow with trees
- Scattered scrub
- Tall ruderals
- Target note

N

**HEDGEROW KEY**

- Not- important hedgerow
- Important hedgerow

Site: Land at Choke Farm, Shenington, Hertfordshire			
Drawn by: W.Parkhurst	Date: 10/10/2012	Scale: NA	Rev: NA
Ecologist: Southern Ecological Solutions Ltd, 1, Saffery Street, Southey Road, Clowham, Essex CM11 1LD	Client: Harriet Horner		
Tel: 01288 711021 seam@ses-ecol.co.uk			