

SEA LINK

EN020026

Appendix B (Guidance on Trees and Hedgerows)

Suffolk County Council



Guidance on Hedgerows and Trees

Hedgerows and Important Hedgerows

- It should be anchored in the ES and in the definitions of the DCO that “hedgerow” and “important hedgerow” have the meaning given in the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Any important hedgerows that are to be removed should be listed in a Schedule of the DCO (Removal of Important Hedgerows) and identified on an appropriate plan.
- No work should be allowed to commence until full and complete hedgerow surveys have been carried out. This is necessary to inform the baseline against which Biodiversity Net Gain and the success of the LEMP would be assessed and to agree replacements as part of the landscaping scheme.
- SCC considers that important hedgerows for the purposes of this scheme should include:
 - i. Those meeting the Hedgerow Regulations, including the criteria for Archaeology, History, Wildlife and Landscape as listed in Schedule 1 of the Regulations.
 - ii. If bat surveys identify 20 or more passes by bats the hedgerow should be considered important as a bat corridor.
 - iii. All the hedgerows where one or more passes of a barbastelle have been recorded - due to the rarity of the species and margin for error in recording.
 - iv. Those that perform an important visual function.
- Any required hedgerow removal will need to be compliant with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 which restricts the timings of this in relation to nesting birds. Also, as hedges are an invaluable habitat resource the removal of hedges, if required, must have a degree of control, suitable assessment, and adequate mitigation, including that hedges can only be removed in accordance with any approved plans.
- To enable full understanding and assessment of locations of important hedges, and areas, where either Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) needs to be undertaken, or offsetting of residual impacts needs to be agreed SCC would ask the applicant to:
 - i. Append a column which identifies, by reference to the hedgerow regulations, why hedgerows are considered important.
 - i. Display the above hedges on a colour – coded map of an appropriate scale, distinguishing between the different criteria and include the additional hedgerows covered by points 2 (bat passes) and 3 (visual importance) above.
 - ii. Confirm that the hedgerows in the cable corridor have been assessed against all the criteria in the hedgerow regulations, regarding, for example

the presence of other protected species (Part II 6 (3)) and proximity to rights of way (Part II 8).

- i. Provide photos of each of the hedgerows which fall within the definition of 1, 2 and 3 above as and in accordance with point C. This will provide a reference for the baseline.
- ii. Confirm which hedgerows the applicant is proposing to HDD.
- iii. Confirm how adverse impacts on hedgerows are minimised, for example by defining a minimum width for the cable corridor, when crossing hedges or coppicing, rather than removing hedgerows from temporary visibility splays. This should be individual for each hedgerow (as circumstances may differ).

Trees

- The Arboricultural Impact Assessment, which should be included in the ES, should provide full Tree Surveys in accordance with BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction. These Tree Surveys should then be used to inform the detailed design stage and micro-siting of all works and required tree protection measures, such as protective fencing.
- Ancient and veteran trees and ancient woodlands are considered irreplaceable habitats and landscape features and any impacts on these should be avoided.
- Post Consent, no works should be allowed to commence until a full Arboricultural Impact Assessment (including Tree Survey and Tree Protection Plan) and an Arboricultural Method Statement, (including location specific special construction method statements, where works are to be carried out within rootzones of trees that are to be retained) in accordance with BS 5837:2012 are submitted to and agreed with the relevant LPAs in writing.
- No article in the DCO should automatically authorise any works to any tree subject to a tree preservation order. Such works, if demonstrated to be unavoidable, should be agreed with the relevant LPA on a case-to-case basis so that appropriate compensation can be agreed and secured.