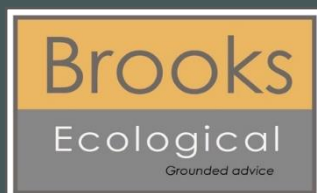


Land off Barugh Green Road, Barnsley



Hedgerow Regulations Assessment

Report Ref. ER-4661-04
Countryside Properties UK Ltd.



Report reference	ER-4661-04
Author	Victoria Baker BSc (Hons) ACIEEM Ecologist
Technical Review	Christopher Shaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM Principal Ecologist
QA	Charlie Foreman BSc (Hons) Assistant Ecologist
Authorised	Christopher Shaw BSc (Hons) MCIEEM Principal Ecologist
Date	11/11/2022



Brooks Ecological Ltd has prepared this report for the sole use of Countryside Properties UK Ltd.. The information which we have prepared and provided is in accordance with the CIEEM's Code of Professional Conduct. We confirm that the opinions expressed are our true and professional bona fide opinions. This report does not constitute legal advice. The report is in accordance with the agreement under which our services were performed. No warranty, express or implied, is made as to the advice in this report or any other service provided by us. This report may not be relied upon by any other party except the person, company, agent or any third party for whom the report is intended without the prior written permission of Brooks Ecological Ltd. This report presents a snapshot of the site at the date it was surveyed; the conditions and the species recorded present, or likely absent, can change rapidly. Resurvey is recommended to any third-party seeking reliance on this report. The content of this report may, in part, be based upon information provided by others and on the assumption that all relevant information has been provided by those parties from whom it has been requested. Information obtained from any third party has not been independently verified by Brooks unless otherwise stated in the report. This report is the copyright of Brooks Ecological Ltd. Unauthorised reproduction or usage by any person is prohibited.

Unit A, 1 Station Road, Guiseley, Leeds, LS20 8BX
Phone: 01943 884451
01943 879129
www.brooks-ecological.co.uk
Registered in England Number 5351418

Summary

None of the hedgerows on Site meet the criteria for 'Important' status under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

Three hedgerows (Hedgerows 1, 3 and 4) will meet the criteria for Habitat of Principle Importance under the NERC Act 2006 and Priority Habitat under the Barnsley BAP.

Hedgerow 2 and the majority of Hedgerow 1 will be retained, in situ, and present an opportunity for ecological enhancement.

The loss of Hedgerows 3 and 4 should be compensated for through new species-rich native hedgerow planting.

Introduction

1. Brooks Ecological Ltd was commissioned by Countryside Properties UK Ltd. to carry out a detailed Hedgerow Assessment at their proposed development Site known as Land off Barugh Green Road, Barnsley (grid reference SE31810783).
2. The survey was required to clarify whether any of the hedgerows within the Site (labelled Hedgerows 1-4 in the Figure below) 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.

Figure 1 Site boundary (red line), with hedgerows denoted by green lines



Methodology

3. Survey was carried out on the 27th September 2022 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

Box 1 Hedgerow Definition (Hedgerow Regs)

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 (Hedgerow Regs)

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 hedgerow 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 tree 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;

Box 4 Hedgerow Definition (UK BAP/ Section 41, NERC Act 2006)

A hedgerow is defined as any boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m long and less than 5m wide, and where any gaps between the trees or shrub species are less than 20m wide (Bickmore, 2002). Any bank, wall, ditch or tree within 2m of the centre of the hedgerow is considered to be part of the hedgerow habitat, as is the herbaceous vegetation within 2m of the centre of the hedgerow.

All hedgerows consisting predominantly (i.e. 80% or more cover) of at least one woody UK native species are covered by this priority habitat, where each UK country can define the list of woody species native to their respective country. Climbers such as honeysuckle and bramble are recognised as integral to many hedgerows, however they require other woody plants to be present to form a distinct woody boundary feature, as such they are not included in the definition of woody species. The definition is limited to boundary lines of trees or shrubs, and excludes banks or walls without woody shrubs on top of them.

Based on an analysis of Countryside Survey data, using the threshold of at least 80% cover of any UK native woody species, it is estimated that 84% of countryside hedgerows in GB would be included.

Result

Overview of hedgerow network

6. The Site encompasses two pastoral fields, used for grazing cattle and sheep. Hedgerows form the Site northern and eastern boundary with a length passing through the lower half.
7. Hedgerows 1, 3 and 4 are fairly similar, with under grazing very apparent and management maintaining hedgerows ranging between 3-4m high by 2-3m wide. Hawthorn is the main component of all three, with small amounts of blackthorn, guelder rose, sycamore and elder noted occasionally. Along Hedgerow 1, semi-mature ash standards were also present.
8. A dry drainage ditch passes along Hedgerow 3 whilst a seasonally wet one is found along Hedgerow 1.
9. Hedgerow 2 forms the boundary to a residential property and has a slightly increased number of species comprising hawthorn, sycamore, rose, prunus sp., ash and bramble. This hedgerow is heavily managed at c.2m in height and width with a dry drainage ditch and part of a wall running along its eastern length.

Hedgerow Regulations Assessment

10. All onsite hedgerows have been mapped and labelled (see Figure 1) and a summary of the data collected for the Hedgerow Regulations assessment can be seen in Table 1 below.
11. None of the hedgerows can be defined as 'Important' under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, due to a lack of diversity and associated features.

Section 41, NERC Act 2006 Assessment

12. Three of the four hedgerows would qualify as being '*habitat of principle importance*' under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. These are hedgerows 1, 3 and 4, although all are species poor.
13. Hedgerow 2 would not qualify as it represents a garden boundary hedge line.

Table 1 Summary of the hedgerow survey

Hedge	Dimensions			Woody sp. Count	Associated Features							PRoW	Important under Hedgerow Regs	Section 41 NERC Act
	Length (m)	Height (m)	Width (m)		Bank/Wall (≥50%)	Gaps (≤10%)	Tree / 50m	Ground flora (≥3)	Ditch (≥50%)	Connections (≥4)	Parallel hedge			
1	230	3-4	2-3	3	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
2	40	2.5	1.5-2	5	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
3	170	3-4	2-3	3	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
4	225	3-4	2-3	3	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes

Figure 2 Hedgerows H1 - 2 (top - bottom)



Figure 3 Hedgerows H3 - 4 (top - bottom)



Conclusion & Recommendations

14. None of the hedgerows within and around the Site boundaries meet the criteria for 'Important' status under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. This is a result of low diversity and lack of associated features.
15. Although not qualifying as Important, Hedgerows 1, 3 and 4 meet the criteria for Habitat of Principle Importance under the NERC Act 2006 and Priority Habitat under the local Barnsley BAP.
16. Hedgerow 2 and the majority of Hedgerow 1 will be retained, and there is opportunity to enhance these through (i) better management, (ii) beating up with a diverse range of suitable native woody species and (iii) planting standards at regular intervals where feasible and appropriate.
17. The loss of Hedgerows 3 and 4 should be over-compensated for through the planting of species rich, native hedgerows.

References

- Hedgerows Regulations 1997 <
[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/regulation/1 /made](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 (2nd edition).