ELMRIDGE FARM, CHIPPING, LANCASHIRE

APPENDIX A: HEDGEROW ASSESSMENT

April 2013

[ERAP Ltd ref: 2012_081c]

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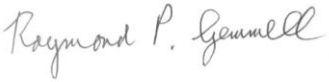
Signed	
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A SUMMARY

Introduction and Scope of Survey

i. ERAP Ltd (Consultant Ecologists) was commissioned by Sedgwick Associates to carry out a Hedgerow survey and assessment at Elmridge Farm, Chipping in April 2013. (refer to Figure 1)

ii. It is proposed to remove an approximately 100 metres section of Hedgerow 1 to facilitate access to the proposed development.

iii. The hedgerow was assessed as 'important' in accordance with The Hedgerows Regulations (1997) wildlife criteria and a UK BAP Priority Habitat/habitat of Principal Importance.

iv. The proposed removal of the hedgerow is acceptable provided that the loss of the hedgerow is adequately compensated for by implementing the proposals outlined in Section 4.0.

v. The hedgerow is favourable nesting habitat for breeding birds; Consequently the hedgerow should only removed outside the bird breeding season unless it can be demonstrated by a suitably qualified ecologist that breeding birds including nest-building birds are absent. The bird breeding season typically extends from March to August inclusive.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Rationale

1.1.1 ERAP Ltd (Consultant Ecologists) was commissioned by Sedgwick Associates to carry out a Hedgerow Survey and assessment of the land at Elmridge Farm, Chipping (hereafter referred to as the 'site') in April 2013. The grid reference at the centre of the site is SD 5958 4062.

1.1.2 The survey was commissioned in connection with proposals to carry out the following: -

a. Renovate an existing dilapidated farmhouse;

b. Convert existing barns (Buildings 1, 2 and 7) to four dwelling houses with associated access and new garages;

c. Demolish a lean-to hay store (Building 3);

d. Demolish the cattle sheds (Buildings 4 to 6); and

e. Construct new farm buildings with associated slurry pit and assess track on land to the north-east of the farm.

1.1.3 A previous ecology survey and report was undertaken by ERAP (Elmridge Farm, Elmridge Lane, Chipping, Lancashire: Ecological Assessment (including a Licensed Bat Survey) ERAP Ltd ref: 2012_081) in relation to this project and its initial planning application.

1.1.4 The initial planning application was rejected due to access limitations at the site: To overcome this problem it is necessary to improve the visibility splay to the left of the proposed access onto Elmridge Lane.

1.1.5 In order to achieve this it is necessary to remove an approximately 100 metre section of hedgerow.

1.2 Scope of Survey

1.2.1 This survey covers two hedgerows extending north and south of Elmridge Lane. 150 metre long sections of both hedgerows were assessed.

2.0 METHOD OF SURVEY

2.1.1 The hedgerow was walked and species noted, including estimates of the distribution, ground cover, abundance and constancy of occurrence of individual species. The estimation of abundance was based on the DAFOR system where D = Dominant, A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare, L= Locally and V= Very, this being a widely used and accepted system employed by ecological surveyors.

2.1.2 Notes were also taken of relevant features associated with the hedgerow, such as; ditches, embankments, ponds and trees.

2.2 Survey Limitations

2.2.1 Both of the hedgerows were fully accessed and surveyed comprehensively. Whilst it is recognised that not all plants are readily identifiable in April it is considered that sufficient survey was conducted, due to the limited habitats present within the hedgerows and the experience of the surveyor, who is able to identify plant species by their vegetative characteristics.

2.2.2 No significant survey limitations were encountered.

2.3 Evaluation Methodology

2.3.1 All hedgerows were assessed to determine whether they are 'important' in accord with *The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 wildlife evaluation criteria*.

3.0 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1.1 Hedgerow 1 to the south of Elmridge Lane is 100% continuous. It does not contain standard trees but has a diversity of woodland herbs including Native Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*). A plant species list and assessment under *The Hedgerows Regulations 1997* criteria is appended at **Table 1.**

3.1.2 Hedgerow 2 on the north side of Elmridge Lane contains a diversity of woody species including local herbaceous plant species of Native Bluebell. Six standard trees, namely Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) are present within the section of hedgerow assessed. A plant species list and assessment using the wildlife criteria published in *The Hedgerows Regulations 1997* is appended at **Table 1.**

3.1.3 Both hedgerows assessed are 'important' in accordance with *The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 criteria for the assessment of importance* and are representative of a UK BAP Priority Habitat/Habitat of Principal Importance.

3.1.4 The hedgerows are the W21 Hawthorn – Ivy scrub community of the NVC.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

4.1 Protection of Nesting Birds

5.3.1 All wild birds are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* whilst they are breeding including nest building. It is mandatory that the hedgerow is only removed outside the bird breeding season unless it can be demonstrated by a suitably qualified ecologist that breeding birds are absent. The bird breeding season typically extends from March to August inclusive.

5.3.2 Prior to any works scheduled within the bird breeding season it is advised that advice from an ecologist is sought. It may be necessary to carry out a walkover survey to demonstrate satisfactorily that no breeding and no nest-building birds, active nests, eggs or fledglings are present in the working area.

5.3.3 If breeding birds are detected the ecologist will issue guidance in relation to the protection of the nesting birds and breeding birds in conjunction with the scheduled works. This may involve cordoning off an area of the site or minimising the works permitted until the young birds have fledged including the hatching of any eggs and subsequent fledging of the young.

4.2 Replanting of Hedgerow Behind the Visibility Splay

4.2.1 It is recommended that a native hedgerow is planted to replace the loss of this 'important hedgerow' and UK BAP habitat.

4.2.2 The newly planted hedgerow must be at least as long as the hedge to be removed.

4.2.3 It is also recommended that additional sections of hedgerow are planted within the proposed development to increase the area of this UKBAP habitat within the site, in accord with the biodiversity requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

4.2.4 Appropriate species should be selected and sourced locally to ensure the closest genetic match possible to the local fauna. Plant species to be used are specified below:

Main Matrix (Transplants/Quicks) 70% of planting stock	
Crataegus monogyna	*Hawthorn*
Prunus spinosa	*Blackthorn*
Interplant (Whips/Transplants) 30% of planting stock	
Acer campestre	*Field Maple*
Cornus sanguinea	*Dogwood*
Corylus avellana	*Hazel*
Euonymous europaeus	*SpindleTree*
Ilex aquifolium	*Holly*
Ligustrum vulgare	*Wild Privet*
Rosa canina	*Dog Rose*

4.2.5 The hedge should be trimmed and laid at appropriate intervals.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 Both hedgerows represent native, intact hedgerows.

5.2 Both hedgerows qualify as 'important' in accord with *The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 wildlife evaluation criteria*.

5.3 Both hedgerows are UK BAP Priority Habitat/Habitat of Principal Importance.

5.4 The implementation of recommendations presented in **Section 4.0** of this report will ensure the loss of the hedgerow will be compensated for and will provide opportunities to enhance the biodiversity of the hedgerow and the site.

6.0 REFERENCES

Maddock, A. (ed.) 2008. *UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Priority Habitat Descriptions*. BRIG

Rodwell, J. S. (ed.) (1991). *British Plant Communities. Volume 1. Woodlands and Scrub*. Cambridge University Press.

Stace, C. A. (1991). *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). H.M.S.O., London.

The Hedgerows Regulations (1997). H.M.S.O., London.

7.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: TABLES AND FIGURES

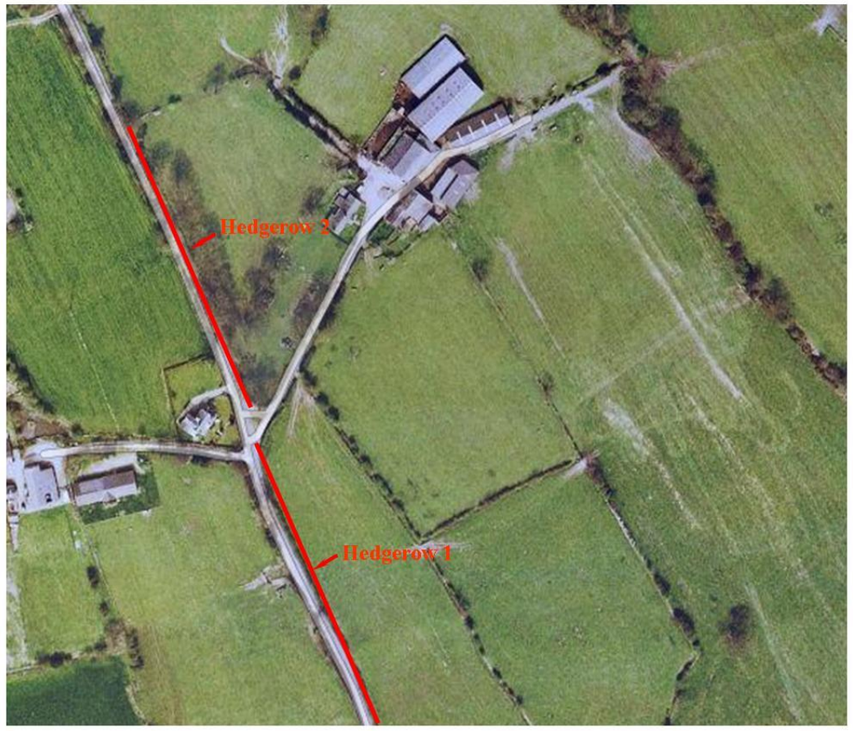
TABLE 1: *Plant Species Composition, Frequency and Abundance for the hedgerows 1 and 2 and Elmridge Farm, Lancashire*

Scientific Name	Common Name	Hedgerow H1		Hedgerow H2	
		Abund.	Cover	Abund.	Cover
Woody Species					
Corylus avellana	Hazel	-	-	LVA	2%
Crataegus monogyna	Hawthorn	F*	30%	A*	40%
Ilex aquifolium	Holly	LA	30%	LVA	10%
Rosa canina	Dog Rose	LF	1%	LF	1%
Lonicera sp	Honeysuckle	O	1%	R	<1%
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	-	-	O(LF)	2%
Quercus robur	Pedunculate Oak	-	-	O	1%
Sambucus nigra	Elder	-	-	R	<1%
Ulex europaeus	Gorse	-	-	R	<1%
Pinus sylvestris	Scots pine	-	-	R	<1%
Understorey					
Alopecurus pratensis	Meadow Foxtail	A*	10%	F*	10%
Ranunculus repens	Creeping buttercup	O	<1%	-	-
Dryopteris dilatata	Broad Buckler Fern	F*	5%	LF	1%
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove	-	-	F*	1%
Galium aparine	Cleavers	F*	2%	F/LA*	5%
Hedera helix	Ivy	LA	5%	LF	5%
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell	R	<1%	R	<1%
Vicia Sativa	Common Vetch	VLF	<1%	-	-
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle	-	-	LVA	10%
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup	F*	2%	-	-
Stellaria holostea	Greater Stitchwort	R	<1%	R	<1%
Silene dioica	Red Campion	-	-	VLF	<1%
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble	VL	<1%	F	5%
Taraxacum officinale	Dandelion	O	<1%	O	<1%
Geranium robertianum	Herb Robert	F	2%	F	2%
Ranunculus ficaria	Lesser celandine	R	<1%	R	<1%
Alliaria petiolata	Garlic Mustard	O	1%	O	1%
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadow Sweet	A	2%	R	<1%
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel	R	<1%	R	<1%
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	-	-	R	<1%
Plantago major	Greater Plantain	R	<1%	R	<1%
Urtica dioica	Common Nettle	F*	2%	LA*	5%
Hedgerow continuity		100%		95%	
Length of Hedgerow		150 metres		150 metres	
Height of Hedgerow		2 metres		2 metres	
Hedgebank present?		No		Yes	
Ditch present?		No		No	
Number of trees		0		6	
Management		Cut on top and sides		Cut on top and sides	
Public footpath or highway present?		Yes		Yes	
Total number of woody species		4		9	
Number of woody species listed in *The Hedgerows Regulations 1997*		7		7	
No. of woody species in 1st 30m section		2		5	
No. of woody species in 2nd 30m section		3		5	
No. of woody species in 3rd 30m section		N/A		N/A	
Average number of woody species		2.5		5	
No. of woodland herbs		3		3	
Important in accordance with *The Hedgerows Regulations 1997?*		**Yes**		**Yes**	

[1]**Key to DAFOR:** D=Dominant, A=Abundant, F=Frequent, O=Occasional, R=Rare, V=Very,

L=Local and *denotes a constant species

Figure 1: *Hedgerow Locations*



Project Name:
Elmridge Farm, Chipping

Title:
Hedgerow Locations

Scale:	Drawing No.	Date:
NTS	Figure 1	April 2013

Central Grid Ref:	Reference No.
SD 5958 4062	ERAP Ltd 2012/081

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