

Tollard Royal Landscape Improvement Scheme

Hedgerow Report



Version	Date	Author	Title
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) proposes the 'undergrounding' of approximately 6.5km of existing 33kV overhead line (OHL) between Tollard Royal (ST 94327 17919) and Charlton (ST 91141 21786), Wiltshire. The project is proposed as part of a landscape improvement scheme to conserve and enhance the visual amenity of Cranbourne Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- 1.2 The proposed underground cable would predominantly be installed using a mole plough. This technique avoids the need to excavate trenches and strip topsoil, although localised open trench excavations will be required at pre-determined locations, such as road crossings.
- 1.3 Following installation of the new underground cable, the existing OHL network would be dismantled.
- 1.4 All works would be completed under SSEN's permitted development rights.
- 1.5 The proposed cable route crosses one 'countryside' hedgerow. A temporary gap measuring approximately 2m – 7m in width will be required at the crossing to facilitate cable installation and machinery movements. If practicable, the proposed gap would be kept to the minimum width required to safely install the cable. However, consent is sought for a gap with a maximum width of 7m if machinery access and/or additional space is required due to unforeseen constraints encountered during construction. The gap would be reinstated on completion of the project.
- 1.6 The affected hedgerow is protected under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (hereafter referred to as 'the Regulations'). Regulation 6 sets out a list of activities where the removal of a hedgerow is permitted. Regulation 6(1)(i) permits hedgerow removal carried out under powers granted to SSEN under the Electricity Act 1989. However, the applicability of this exemption to cable installation projects has been interpreted differently by some Local Planning Authorities. As such, and to remove the risk of possible objections, a formal hedgerow removal notice will be submitted to Wiltshire Council, as required by Regulation 5(1)(a).
- 1.7 This document provides information to support a Hedgerow Removal Notice to Wiltshire Council. The council has a 42-day period within which to respond to a notice to remove a hedgerow.

2 Legislation and guidance

- 2.1 The explanatory note that accompanies Schedule 4 of the Regulations states that *‘Before removing any hedgerow, including a stretch of hedgerow, to which these Regulations apply...a relevant utility operator¹ must notify the local planning authority (regulation 5). The hedgerow may then not be removed if the local planning authority serves a hedgerow retention notice, which may be done only if the hedgerow is important according to the criteria set out in regulation 4 and Schedules 1 to 3. The requirement for the...utility operator to notify the local planning authority does not apply to the permitted work described in regulation 6’.*
- 2.2 As discussed above, Regulation 6 sets out a list of activities where the removal of a hedgerow is permitted. Regulation 6(1)(i) permits hedgerow removal carried out under powers granted to SSEN under the Electricity Act 1989 but despite this, a formal hedgerow removal notice will be submitted to Wiltshire Council, as required by Regulation 5(1)(a).
- 2.3 Under the Regulations a hedgerow is ‘important’ if it, or the hedgerow of which it is a stretch:
- has existed for 30 years or more; and
 - satisfies at least one of the criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations.
- 2.4 The criteria listed in Part II of Schedule 1 are split into ‘archaeology and history’, and ‘wildlife and landscape’.
- 2.5 Archaeology and history criteria are specified by paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations. Hedgerows are considered important under the Regulations if they meet one of the following criteria:
- marks an historic parish boundary;
 - incorporates a Scheduled Ancient Monument;
 - incorporates an archaeological feature recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR);
 - is wholly or partly within an archaeological site recorded in the SMR and is associated with that site;
 - marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor recorded in the SMR or held at a Record Office;
 - is visibly related to a building or feature of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor;
 - is recorded in a document at a Record Office as an integral part of a pre-Inclosure field system;
 - is part of, or is related to, a building or feature associated with a substantially complete pre-Inclosure field system;
 - is part of, or is related to, a building or feature associated with a pre-Inclosure field system, and that system is identified in a local planning authority document as a key landscape characteristic.

¹ Regulation 2(1) clarifies that ‘relevant utility operator’ relates to ‘any person who holds a licence granted under section 6 of the Electricity Act 1989 (power to grant licences for the generation, transmission or supply of electricity) and who wishes to remove or, as the case may be, removes the hedgerow in question for the purpose of carrying out any activity authorised by that licence’. SSEN falls under this definition.

2.6 Wildlife and landscape criteria are specified by Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of Part II of Schedule 1 of the Regulations. Hedgerows are considered important under the Regulations if they meet one of the following criteria:

- contain species protected in Schedules 1, 5 or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended);
- contain on average, within 30m sample sections:
 - at least seven woody species from Schedule 3 of the Regulations; or
 - at least six woody species from Schedule 3, and three ecological features listed in Schedule 1, Part II, paragraph 7(4); or
 - at least six woody species, including rare species named in Schedule 1, Part II, paragraph 7;
- include at least five woody species and four features listed below as appears in Schedule 1, Part II, paragraph 7(4);
 - a bank or wall which supports the hedgerow along at least half of its length;
 - gaps which in aggregate do not exceed 10% of the total length of the hedgerow;
 - where the length of the hedgerow does not exceed 50 metres, at least one standard tree;
 - where the length of the hedgerow exceeds 50 metres but does not exceed 100 metres, at least 2 standard trees;
 - where the length of the hedgerow exceeds 100 metres, such number of standard trees (within any part of its length) as would when averaged over its total length amount to at least one for each 50 metres;
 - at least 3 woodland species within one metre, in any direction, of the outermost edges of the hedgerow;
 - a ditch along at least half of the length of the hedgerow;
 - connections scoring 4 points or more in accordance with sub-paragraph (5); and
 - a parallel hedge within 15 metres of the hedgerow.
- are bisected by or adjacent to a public right of way and include at least four woody species in an average 30m length and at least two features listed in Schedule 1, Part II, paragraph 7(4) and 8.

3 Assessment methodology

Introduction

- 3.1 The survey methodology is informed by good practice guidelines detailed in the *Hedgerow Survey Handbook* (DEFRA, 2007), the results of desk studies and professional judgement. It is designed to assess the importance (as per the Regulations) of hedgerows that would be affected by the project.

Desk Study

- 3.2 Aerial photography and Ordnance Survey (OS) maps were used to identify potential hedgerows which cross the proposed cable route.
- 3.3 The Multi-Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website was used to identify statutory designated sites (wildlife and heritage) and priority habitats of relevance. Records relating to European Protected Species (EPS) licences and ponds that have been surveyed for great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* (GCN) were also reviewed.
- 3.4 OS maps were examined to locate ponds and wet ditches which might contribute to the value of a hedgerow, as well as public rights of way associated with the affected hedgerows.
- 3.5 Wiltshire Council's planning explorer map and Core Strategy map were reviewed for information relating to non-statutory designated sites, protected trees and other environmental constraints. Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way Map was reviewed for information relating to Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT) and public rights of way.
- 3.6 The Heritage Gateway was reviewed to identify sites or features of historic interest. Old OS maps provided by the National Library of Scotland website were reviewed to identify information relating to old parish boundaries and other historic features and land uses of relevance.

Field Survey

- 3.7 The hedgerow identified in the desk study and subsequently confirmed as requiring removal was surveyed on 7th September 2026 by SSEN's Principal Ecologist Dave Jones CEnv MCIEEM. The survey methodology was based on the *Hedgerow Survey Handbook* (DEFRA, 2007) and identified the presence of the features/criteria listed in Schedule 1 Part II, of the Regulations.
- 3.8 During the field surveys, the surveyor completed a DAFOR² scale of all woody species (as listed in Schedule 3 of the Regulations) and plants occurring in the herb layer (as listed in Schedule 2 of the Regulations).
- 3.9 Between one and three 30m sample sections were surveyed per hedgerow, depending on the hedgerow's total length. In each 30m section, the presence and abundance of all woody species was recorded in relation to the DAFOR scale. This provided a total number of species and when multiple sections were surveyed, these were averaged to determine species-richness of the hedgerow.

² A DAFOR scale is used to assign an abundance value: Dominant, Abundant, Frequent, Occasional or Rare.

- 3.10 The surveyor also noted any tree species considered rare in Great Britain as listed in Schedule 1 Part II paragraph 7 of the Regulations. These are black poplar *Populus nigra* subsp. *betulifolia*, large-leaved lime *Tilia platyphyllos*, small-leaved lime *T. cordata* and wild service-tree *Sorbus torminalis*.

Assessment of hedgerow ‘importance’

- 3.11 The results of the desk study and field survey were used to establish importance of each hedgerow using the criteria listed in the Regulations.

Limitations

- 3.12 A data search of historic records held by the relevant local records offices was not undertaken and so the criteria in paragraphs 4(a), 5(a), 6(1)(a) and 6(1)(b) of Schedule 1 Part II of the Regulations may not have been fully assessed.
- 3.13 No other limitations were experienced that would affect the outcome of the survey or the assessment of hedgerow importance.

4 Assessment results

- 4.1 Descriptions of each hedgerow are provided in the paragraphs below. The results of the assessment of hedgerow importance are provided in Table 4.1, below. Species lists and photographs are provided in the Appendices.

Hedge 1

- 4.2 The proposed crossing of Hedge 1 is located at ST 93277 21224. The hedge forms the boundary between the carriageway of Ferne Hollow and an arable field used for the cultivation of cereal crops.
- 4.3 The hedgerow is 570m long when measured between its southern end at an access track (ST 93283 21195) and a property named *Keepers* to the north-west (ST 92865 21429), although it continues largely unbroken for many hundreds of metres further west, along Ferne Hollow.
- 4.4 The hedgerow comprised frequent hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, hazel *Corylus avellana* and rose *Rosa* sp. Field maple *Acer campestre*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* and English elm *Ulmus procera* were also present. Frequent standard trees were present, including field maple, ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*. False brome *Brachypodium sylvaticum* was occasional in the herb layer.
- 4.5 The height and structure of the hedgerow at the location of the proposed crossing indicates that is regularly managed, although it became more outgrown further to the west. Gaps were limited to one access gate. A parallel hedge was present on the opposite verge of Ferne Hollow. A bank was present along the western half of the hedgerow.
- 4.6 The hedgerow is considered to be important as it supports an average of five woody species and has associated with it at least four 'hedgerow features'.

Table 4.1 Hedgerows Regulations Assessment

Hedgerow ref	1
Grid reference (crossing location)	ST 93277 21224
Important hedgerow (details below)?	Yes
Archaeology and history	
Marks an historic parish boundary (para 1 ³)	No
Incorporates a Scheduled Ancient Monument (para 2(a))	No
Incorporates an archaeological feature recorded in the SMR (para 2(b))	No
Is wholly or partly within an archaeological site recorded in the SMR and is associated with that site (para 3)	No
Marks the boundary of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor recorded in the SMR or held at a Record Office (para 4(a))	No
Is visibly related to a building or feature of a pre-1600 AD estate or manor (para 4(b))	No
Is recorded in a document at a Record Office as an integral part of a pre-Inclosure field system (para 5(a))	-
Is part of, or is related to, a building or feature associated with a substantially complete pre-Inclosure field system (para 5(b)(i))	No
Is part of, or is related to, a building or feature associated with a pre-Inclosure field system, and that system is identified in a local planning authority document as a key landscape characteristic (para 5(b)(ii))	No
Important under archaeology and history criteria?	No
Wildlife and landscape	
Contains a legally protected or Red Data Book species, as referred to in sub-paragraph 6(3) (para 6(1)(a))	-
Is referred to in a record held in a biological record centre as having contained a species as described in sub-paragraph 6(3) (para 6(1)(b))	-
Includes at least 7 'woody species' (para 7(1)(a))	No
Includes at least 6 'woody species' and has associated with it at least 3 'hedgerow features', as listed in sub-paragraph 7(4) (para 7(1)(b))	No

³ Numbers refer to paragraphs in Schedule 1 Part II of The Hedgerows Regulations 1997

Hedgerow ref		1
Supports at least 6 'woody species' including black poplar (native), large-leaved lime, small-leaved lime and/or wild service-tree (para 7(1)(c))		No
Includes at least 5 'woody species' and has associated with it at least 4 'hedgerow features' (para 7(1)(d))		Yes
Is adjacent to a bridleway, footpath, RUPP or BOAT and includes at least 4 'woody species' and has associated with it at least 2 'hedgerow features' [(a)-(g) only] (para 8)		No
Features	Bank or wall along half length (a)	Yes
	<10% gaps (b)	Yes
	1+ standard tree (hedge <50m) (c)	-
	2+ standard trees (hedge 50-100m) (d)	-
	1+ standard tree per 50m (hedge 100m+) (e)	Yes
	3+ woodland species (f)	No
	Ditch along half length (g)	No
	Connectivity score 4+ ⁴ (h)	No (1 hedge and woodland = 3 points)
	Parallel hedge within 15m (i)	Yes
No. of features		4
No. woody species		5
Important under wildlife/landscape criteria?		Yes

⁴ Scores for connections: Another hedgerow = 1 point; pond = 2 points; predominantly broad-leaved woodland = 2 points. A hedgerow is connected with something not only if it meets it but also if it has a point within 10m of it and would meet if the line of the hedgerow continued.

5 Proposed hedgerow removal

- 5.1 The proposed underground cable would predominantly be installed using a mole plough. This technique avoids the need to excavate trenches and strip topsoil, although localised open trench excavations will be required at pre-determined locations, such as road crossings.
- 5.2 The proposed cable route requires the removal of one section of 'countryside' hedgerow. A temporary gap measuring approximately 2m – 7m in width will be required at the crossing to facilitate cable installation and machinery movements. If practicable, the proposed gap would be kept to the minimum width required to safely install the cable. However, consent is sought for a gap with a maximum width of 7m if machinery access and/or additional space is required due to unforeseen constraints encountered during construction.
- 5.3 The table below sets out the extent of hedgerow removal required to facilitate cable installation activities at each crossing.

Table 5.1 Proposed hedgerow removal

Hedge reference	Grid ref	Proposed hedgerow removal (m)	Important hedge	Notes
1	ST 93277 21224	2-7m	Yes	The proposed cable route follows the alignment of the existing OHL (to be removed) and so falls within SSEN's current easement. Re-routing to make use of existing access points would require renegotiation of the easement with the landowner which would incur additional cost and jeopardise the project's delivery.

6 Replanting specification

- 6.1 This section provides the outline specification for the reinstatement of gaps created in hedgerows affected by the project, as detailed above.

Table 6.1 Hedge planting schedule

Hedge ref	Grid ref	Width	Species mix	Type
Hedge 1	ST 93277 21224	2-7m	Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> – 100%	Whips

Timing

- 6.2 All planting to be undertaken between 1st November and 15th March when plants are still dormant. Planting should not be undertaken in freezing weather or waterlogged ground.

Plants

- 6.3 Plants must be:
- 2-year-old transplants unless otherwise specified/agreed.
 - at least 450mm to 600mm high.
 - native species of local provenance (i.e., grown and sourced from a nursery in the south of England) and should comply to British Standard BS 3936-1, Nursery Stock Specification for Trees and Shrubs.

Planting

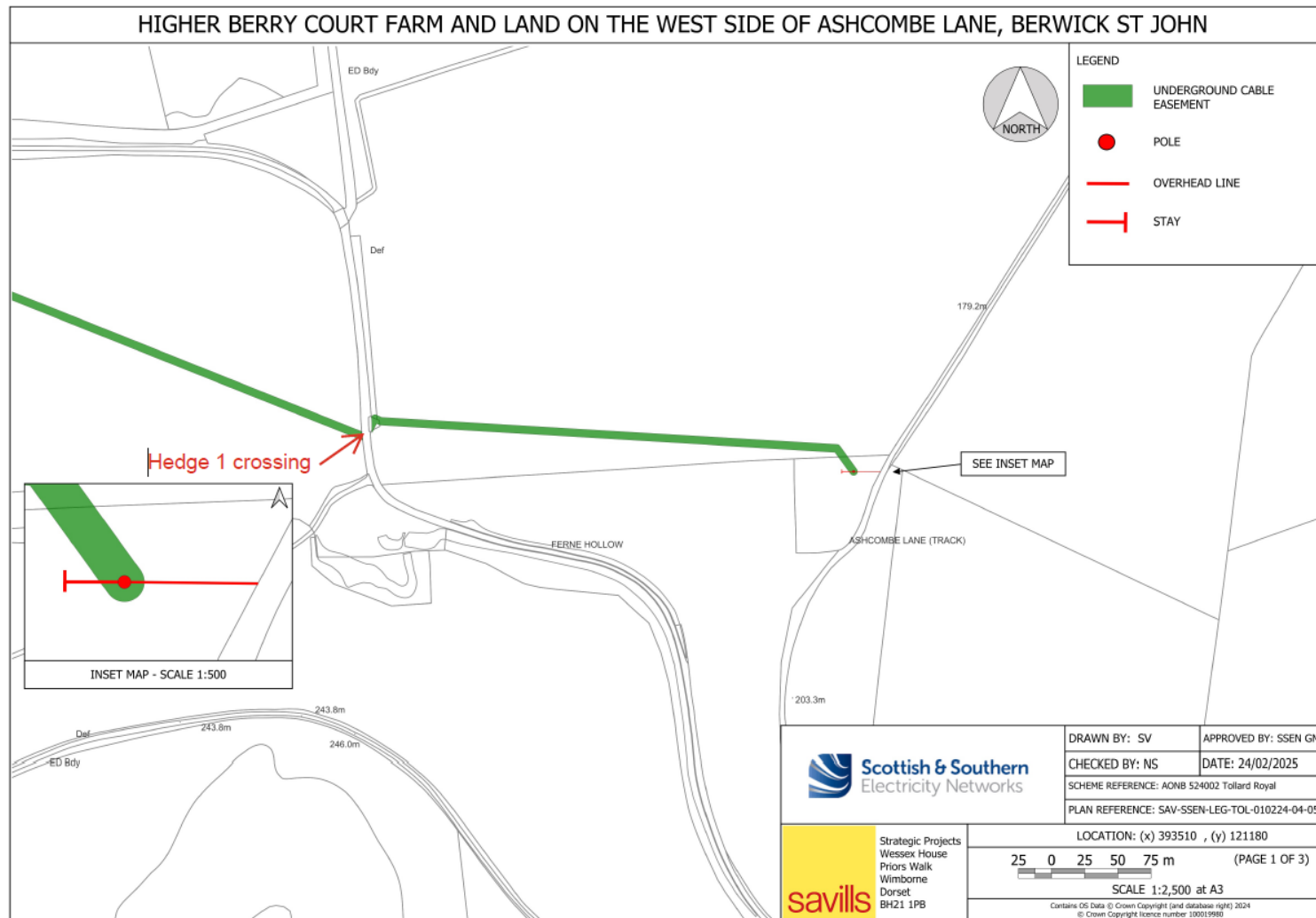
1. Prepare the ground along a 1.5m wide strip so the soil becomes friable (has a crumbly texture) and is free of other growth.
2. Dig in well-rotted farmyard manure, as necessary.
3. Plant in a staggered triple row 40cm apart with a minimum of 6 plants per metre (unless otherwise specified).
4. Planting can be carried out in one of two main ways:
 - a) Cultivated strip planting. In a cultivated strip, approximately 60cm wide by 25cm deep. This ensures that the roots of each plant are placed into the optimum cultivated conditions for good root development.
 - b) Slit planting. By cutting a slit in the ground and holding it open with a spade whilst the roots of the plant are carefully inserted and spread downwards.
5. Take care of roots before planting by keeping them covered at all times, especially if sunny or windy. Avoid opening more than one bag of plants at a time.
6. The plants should be set in at the same depth as they were in the nursery and the soil must be firmed well in around the roots.
7. Use a mulch mat to suppress weed growth.

Guards, fencing and supports

1. Hedge guards to be used to protect plants from rabbits, particularly where there are dense populations. Secure hedge guards firmly in the ground using a stake or cane.

2. If necessary, prevent livestock and grazing animals from damaging the hedge by setting fencing at least 1.2m from the centre of the hedge, or, if there is a bank, as close to the base of the bank as possible.
3. Support and secure young trees to appropriate posts.

Appendix A Location plan



Appendix B Hedgerow Survey Form

Project		Tollard Royal		County*		Wills		Date		07-Sep-26		Cross Section plan (Mark on dimensions and aspect of both sides)				Photos		No. of trees in whole hedgerow		20+		FALSE		#VALUE!									
Surveyors		Dave Jones		Type of hedgerow#		Sh. Hdg		Hedgerow number		1						Mature trees, (>15cm diameter)		Species (tally)				TRUE											
A) Total length of hedge (m)		568		Start Grid ref.		ST 93279 21208		End Grid ref.		ST 92865 21429												1		TRUE									
B) No. sections <100m = 1 <200m = 2 >200m = 3		3		TO SURVEY:		Section 1		Section 2		Section 3																							
						Mid-point Grid ref.		ST 93277 21235		Mid-point Grid ref.		ST 93263 21366		Mid-point Grid ref.		ST 93167 21426																	
C) Full Section length (m) A/B				Start		D-15				+C				+C																			
D) Mid point G/Z				End		+30				+30				+30																			
H. Regs Sch3 Species for hedgerow assessment within 30m sections. Include general dafor for ALL species, selected from the drop-down menu. Enter 1 for presence from the drop-down menu.										H. Regs Sch2 Species along entire length of hedge (within 1m of outermost edges of the hedgerow). Include general dafor for ALL species, selected from the drop-down menu.																							
Latin		English		Section 1 (30m)		Section 2 (30m)		Section 3 (30m)		General DAFOR		Latin		English		General DAFOR																	
Ailrus glutinosa		Alder										Adoxa moschatellina		Moschatel																			
Frangula alnus		Alder buckthorn										Ajuga reptans		Bugle																			
Fraxinus excelsior		Ash										Allium ursinum		Ramsons																			
Populus tremula		Aspen										Anemone nemorosa		Wood anemone																			
Fagus sylvatica		Beech										Anum maculatum		Lords-and-ladies																			
Populus nigra ssp betulifolia		Black poplar										Athyrium filix-femina		Lady fern																			
Prunus spinosa		Blackthorn		1						O		Brachypodium sylvaticum		Wood false-brome		O																	
Rhamnus cathartica		Buckthorn										Bromus sylvaticus		Hairy brome																			
Malus sylvestris		Crab apple										Campanula trachelium		Nettle-leaved bellflower																			
Daphne mezereum		Daphne mezereon										Carex sylvatica		Wood sedge																			
Cornus sanguinea		Dogwood										Circaea lutetiana		Enchanters nightshade																			
Betula pubescens		Downy birch										Conopodium majus		Pignut																			
Sambucus nigra		Elder										Dryopteris affinis		Scaly male-fern																			
Ulmus species		Elm species		1						1 R		Dryopteris carthusiana		Narrow buckler fern																			
Acer campestre		Field maple		1		1				1 O		Dryopteris dilatata		Broad buckler-fern																			
Ribes uva-crispa		Gooseberry										Dryopteris filix-mas		Male fern																			
Ulex europaeus		Gorse										Epipactis helleborine		Broad-leaved helleborine																			
Populus x canescens		Grey poplar										Equisetum sylvaticum		Wood horsetail																			
Viburnum opulus		Guelder rose										Euphorbia amygdaloides		Wood spurge																			
Crataegus monogyna		Hawthorn		1		1				1 F		Festuca gigantea		Giant fescue																			
Corylus avellana		Hazel		1		1				1 F		Fragaria vesca		Wild strawberry																			
Ilex aquifolium		Holly										Galium odoratum		Sweet woodruff																			
Carpinus betulus		Hornbeam										Geranium robertianum		Herb Robert																			
Tilia platyphyllos		Large-leaved lime										Geum urbanum		Wood aven																			
Crataegus laevigata		Midland hawthorn										Hyacinthoides non-scripta		Bluebell +																			
Salix viminalis		Osier										Lamastrium galeobdolon		Yellow archangel																			
Quercus robur		Pedunculate oak										Lathraea squamaria		Toothwort																			
Pyrus cordata		Plymouth pear										Luzula pilosa		Hairy wood-rush																			
Rosa species		Rose species		1		1				1 F		Melampyrum pratense		Common cow-wheat																			
Sorbus aucuparia		Rowan										Mercurialis perennis		Dog's mercury																			
Betula pendula		Silver birch										Millium effusum		Wood millet																			
Tilia cordata		Small-leaved lime										Orchis mascula		Early purple orchid																			
Euonymus europaeus		Spindle										Oxalis acetosella		Wood sorrel																			
Daphne laureola		Spurge-laurel										Paris quadrifolia		Herb Paris																			
Viburnum lantana		Wayfaring-tree										Phytillis scolopendrium		Hart's tongue																			
Populus alba		White poplar										Poa nemoralis		Wood meadow-grass																			
Sorbus species		Whitebeam species										Polypodium vulgare		Common polypody																			
Prunus avium		Wild cherry										Polystichum aculeatum		Hard shield fern																			
Pyrus pyrastier		Wild pear										Potystichum sterlerum		Soft shield fern																			
Ligustrum vulgare		Wild privet										Potentilla sterilis		Barren strawberry																			
Sorbus torminalis		Wild service tree										Primula elatior		Oxlip																			
Salix species		Willow species										Primula vulgaris		Primrose																			
Taxus baccata		Yew										Ranunculus auricomus		Goldlocks buttercup																			
												Ranunculus repens		Sanicla																			
												Teucrium scorodonia		Wood sage																			
												Veronica montana		Wood speedwell																			
Important Trees		0		1		1		Average:		5.00		Viola odorata		Sweet violet								Enter TRUE or FALSE		Enter TRUE or FALSE Northern England									
Total per 30m section:		6		4		5						Viola reichenbachiana		Early dog violet																			
Acer pseudoplatanus		Sycamore										Viola riviniana		Common dog violet																			
List other species along the length of entire hedge (NOT listed as Sch. 2 or 3)																																	
																																</	

Appendix C Photographs



Plate 1. Hedge 1. View from road.



Plate 2. Hedge 1. View from adjacent field.