

The North Wales Wind Farms Connection Project

Environmental Statement Chapter 2 – Description
of Proposed Development Technical Appendices
Schedule of Changes to the Outline Hedgerow
Management Plan

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Schedule of Changes to the Outline Hedgerow Management Plan

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SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in England No. 02366937

During the issue specific hearings that took place between 29 September 2015 and 2 October 2015 various amendments were discussed in respect of the Outline Hedgerow Management Plan. Those changes are described in the table below. Where additional text has been added this is shown in underlined text in the third column and where it has been deleted the text is shown in strike through.

Document reference	Current entry	Proposed Amendment
1.1.4	This document should be read in conjunction with the Ecological Management Plan (EcMP) which sets out requirements to protect species and habitats during construction works.	This document The HMP should be read in conjunction with the <u>CEMP</u> , Ecological Management Plan (EcMP) <u>and Chapter 6 of the Environmental Statement (ES)</u> which set out requirements to protect species and habitats during construction works.
1.2.2		<u>The HMP, as an appendix to the CEMP, is secured through a requirement in the DCO.</u>
1.2.3		<u>The Proposed Development includes, within the design, limits of deviation (LoD). The LoD provides a degree of flexibility to enable micro-siting due to environmental or technical constraints and alterations requested by landowners. This variation has been built into the design and assessment of the Proposed Development. It will be the responsibility of the Construction Contractor, in partnership with SP Manweb, to confirm the final design of the Proposed Development, the main part of this being the pole locations.</u>
1.2.4		<u>This HMP identifies constraints and will inform the work required of the Construction Contractor once the design is finalised.</u>
1.3.2	Many hedgerows contain a great diversity of species both plant and wildlife. Their role in conserving and enhancing biodiversity is recognised in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1. In Wales Technical Advice Note 5 (Nature Conservation and Planning 2006) further encourages the development of policies for the management of hedgerows.	Many hedgerows contain a great diversity of species both plant and wildlife. Their role in conserving and enhancing biodiversity is recognised in UK Biodiversity Action Plan 1. In Wales Technical Advice Note 5 (Nature Conservation and Planning 2006) <u>section 42 list of Habitats of Principal Importance for Conservation of Biological Diversity in Wales.</u>
1.4.1	Works shall require the removal of hedgerows for construction of the Proposed Development to facilitate accesses to land and for the location of wood poles. This shall have the following potential	Works shall require the removal of hedgerows for construction of the Proposed Development to facilitate accesses to land and for the location of wood poles. This shall have the following

	<p>adverse ecological effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragmentation of wildlife corridors; • Reduction in connectivity between habitats; • Loss of important or species rich native hedges; and • Loss of shelter and food resource for birds and small mammals. 	<p>potential adverse ecological effects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragmentation of wildlife corridors; • Reduction in connectivity between habitats; • Loss of important or species rich native hedgerows; and • Loss of shelter and food resource for birds, small mammals <u>and other wildlife.</u> <p>FOOTNOTE: <u>Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006: Section 42 List of Habitats of Principal Importance for Conservation of Biological Diversity in Wales</u></p>
2.2.3	<p>Pole structures may be located within field boundaries, and will require the temporary removal of hedgerows during construction. The length of hedgerow removed shall depend on the size of the structure but should not be wider than 6.4m (the width of a failure containment structure, the largest structure proposed). The hedgerow removal for a standard intermediate structure would be 3.4m.</p>	<p>Pole structures may be located within field boundaries, and will require the temporary removal of hedgerows during construction. The length of hedgerow removed shall depend on the size of the structure but should not <u>will not</u> be wider than 6.4m (the width of a failure containment structure, the largest structure proposed). The hedgerow removal for a standard intermediate structure would be 3.4m.</p>
2.3.2	<p>Micrositing shall be employed to ensure existing gated accesses are used wherever possible. If no existing access exists, gaps or poor sections in the hedgerows shall be used wherever possible to minimise effects. The ECoW and Construction Contractor shall agree access points for each required site.</p>	<p>Micrositing shall be employed to ensure existing gated accesses are used wherever possible. If no existing access exists, gaps or poorer sections in the hedgerows shall be used wherever possible, <u>wherever possible, subject to any technical constraints,</u> to minimise effects. The ECoW, <u>qualified ecologist</u> and Construction Contractor shall agree access points for each required site.</p>
2.4.3	<p>Trees with potential for bats and dormice habitats have been found within the Order Limits. These are covered by the EcMP.</p>	<p>Trees with potential for bats and dormice habitats, <u>birds and other species</u> have been found within the Order Limits. These are covered by the EcMP.</p>
2.5.1	<p>The Construction Contractor and ECoW shall agree the method for hedgerow removal for accesses and pole locations. This method</p>	<p>The Construction Contractor and ECoW shall agree the method for hedgerow removal for accesses and pole locations. This method may vary for each location but</p>

	may vary for each location and should ensure potential adverse environmental effects are minimised wherever possible	will ensure potential adverse environmental effects are minimised wherever possible .
2.5.2	Work shall be planned to limit disturbance to those sections of the hedgerow that is not proposed for removal, including roots of hedge plants wherever possible. The optimal time for hedgerow removal is in the winter months whilst the plants are in a dormant growth phase.	Work shall be planned to limit disturbance to those sections of the hedgerow that is <u>are</u> not proposed for removal, including roots of hedge plants wherever possible . The optimal time for hedgerow removal is in the winter months whilst the plants are in a dormant growth phase.
2.5.3	Wherever possible, hedgerows shall be hard-pruned in the autumn prior to construction after the bird breeding season to render the hedgerow unsuitable for overwintering and nesting the following season.	Wherever possible , Hedgerows shall be hard-pruned in the autumn prior to construction after the bird breeding season to render the hedgerow unsuitable for <u>various overwintering species</u> and nesting <u>birds</u> the following season.
2.5.4	The section of hedgerow for removal will be clearly marked on site to ensure minimum take. The shortest length of hedgerow necessary will be removed. This will be achieved through clear and accurate marking prior to works commencing.	The section of hedgerow for removal will be clearly marked on site to ensure minimum take. <u>In respect of hedgerow removal for the erection of poles, the shortest length of hedgerow necessary will be removed with the maximum length being no greater than 6.4m.</u> This will be achieved through clear and accurate marking prior to works commencing.
2.5.6		Where hedgerows are to be removed for longer than 48 hours brushings will be used to maintain a conduit for dormice and other species unless otherwise agreed with the qualified ecologist.
2.5.7	All operations shall be undertaken by suitably qualified persons. Machinery including chainsaws and excavators shall be used to remove the required section of hedgerow. If possible, hedgerows removed shall be mulched on site and used in reinstatement. If this is not possible, hedgerows shall be disposed of at a licensed waste facility.	All operations shall be undertaken by suitably qualified persons. Machinery, including chainsaws and excavators shall be used to remove the required section of hedgerow. — If possible, — Hedgerows removed shall <u>will either be mulched on site and used in reinstatement or if this is not possible, hedgerows shall be disposed of at a licensed waste facility.</u>
2.5.11	This approach shall only be feasible where timescales between excavation and	This approach shall only be feasible where timescales between excavation and reinstatement are short. In those instances

	reinstatement are short. In those instances where it is proposed to temporarily lift the hedgerow, the hedgerow should be replaced within 48hrs. Those situations where an excavation is proposed well in advance of the pole installation may not be suitable for this approach.	where it is proposed to temporarily lift the hedgerow, the hedgerow should <u>will</u> be replaced within 48hrs. Those situations where an excavation is proposed well in advance of the pole installation may not be suitable for this approach.
2.6.1	All reinstatements of hedgerows shall ensure compatible species are used during the reinstatement. If the hedgerow is in a poor condition, a species rich but still reflective mix shall be proposed.	All reinstatements of hedgerows shall ensure compatible species are used during the reinstatement. If the hedgerow is in a poor condition, a species rich but still reflective mix shall be proposed <u>will be planted</u> . <u>In accordance with guidance from Welsh Government, ash trees will not be planted.</u>
2.6.2	The optimum time for reinstatement and planting is from the end of October to the end of March when weather conditions are suitable for full reinstatement. Removal and reinstatement shall be undertaken in suitable weather conditions so as not to stress the plants. No planting shall be undertaken if the ground is frozen or waterlogged. Hedgerows shall be watered when out and when replaced as necessary.	The optimum time for Reinstatement and planting <u>will take place where possible within the optimum time frame which</u> is from the end of October to the end of March when weather conditions are <u>most</u> suitable for full reinstatement. Removal and reinstatement shall be undertaken in suitable weather conditions so as not to stress the plants. No planting shall be undertaken if the ground is frozen or waterlogged. Hedgerows shall be watered when out and when replaced as necessary.
2.6.3	If possible, hedgerow species should be two year old root trained grown stock of native origin, obtained from reputable suppliers and delivered to site ready for planting. The replanting shall be in an appropriate pattern to ensure integration with the structure of the undisturbed section.	If possible, Hedgerow species should <u>shall</u> be two year old root trained grown stock of native origin, obtained from reputable suppliers and delivered to site ready for planting. The replanting shall be in an appropriate pattern to ensure integration with the structure of the undisturbed section.
2.7.2	The first cut to newly planted hedgerows is recommended within years 2 to 3 (dependant on growth), and shall consist of 'facing up' either side of the hedge. Additional hedge cutting may be required from a health and safety perspective should there be a good growing season although this is unlikely within the first few years of establishment, but should be monitored.	The first cut to newly planted hedgerows is recommended <u>shall take place</u> within years 2 to 3 (dependant on growth), and shall consist of 'facing up' either side of the hedge. Additional hedge cutting may be required from a health and safety perspective should there be a good growing season although this is unlikely within the first few years of establishment, but shall be monitored.

2.7.3	Hedgerows are best cut in an 'A' shape to maintain a wide base for bird nesting and roosting and if possible only one side should be cut annually. All hedge cuts must be undertaken using appropriate hand or power tools. Mechanical methods of management, where appropriate, should be used in favour of machinery.	Hedgerows are best cut <u>shall be</u> cut in an 'A' shape to maintain a wide base for bird nesting and roosting and only one side should be cut annually. All hedge cuts must be undertaken using appropriate hand or power tools. Mechanical methods of management, where appropriate, should be used in favour of machinery.
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Table 1: Proposed amendments to the Outline Hedgerow Management Plan