

Hedgerow Survey Report
Land East of Court Drove
Overton Biodiversity Society July 2017

Introduction

The Overton Biodiversity Society Action Plan 2015- 2019 includes the action 'Record condition and diversity of hedgerows potentially at risk from building work', providing a report detailing species and condition of hedges for the Parish Council.

This survey work builds on experience studying hedgerows in Overton Parish since 2003 using the methodology in Hedgerow Survey Handbook – a standard procedure for local surveys in the UK, Catherine Bickmore 2002. Previous survey results can be viewed at <http://www.overton-biodiversity.org/resources/catalogue/surveys.html>.

Identification of hedges to be surveyed

Land East of Court Drove, opposite the entrance to Lordsfield Gardens has been identified as a potential development site (Site B: E of Court Drove in the Overton Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016 – 2029).

Inspection of the site perimeter identified a single hedgerow to be surveyed on the Western edge adjacent to Court Drove.

The hedgerow survey protocol designates the left end of the hedge as 'end C' with detailed surveying of woody species beginning 30m from 'end C' and continuing for the next 30m. For hedges less than 100m in length the centre 30 m should be surveyed. To maximise the amount of hedgerow surveyed for this less than 100m hedgerow the protocol was adjusted to survey directly from 'end C' on the Western side and beginning beyond a large patch of nettles approximately 5m from 'end C' on the Eastern side. Ground flora (as number of different species) in two 2m x 1m quadrats within each 30m hedge length was also surveyed.

Summary of survey findings

Full data can be found in Appendix 1.

Eastern side



This part of the hedgerow contains one Hawthorn and three Field Maple trees. The hedge is tall and wide, stock-proof with signs of recent management. Eleven woody species were identified in the 30m hedge length, in order of dominance (most abundant first) Blackthorn, Ivy, Dog Rose, Bramble, Hawthorn, Field Maple, Clematis, Hazel, Deadly Nightshade and White Bryony. The ground flora in the two 2 x 1m quadrats revealed a maximum of 14 different species.

Western side



This part of the hedgerow contains two Hawthorn and five Field Maple trees. The hedge is tall and wide, stock-proof with signs of recent management cutting the hedge back beside the road. Five woody species were identified in the 30m hedge length, in order of dominance (most abundant first) Ivy, Blackthorn, Field Maple, Dog Rose and Bramble. The ground flora in the two 2 x 1m quadrats revealed a maximum of 6 different species. Approximately 25% of the quadrat area was tarmac.

Conclusions

The woody species in this hedge are locally abundant in other parish hedgerows. The Eastern (field) side demonstrates greater diversity than the Western (road) side. Ground flora is also more diverse on the Eastern side. The dominance of Ivy on the Western side and high frequency on the Eastern side will shade other species and is likely to be detrimental to overall diversity in this hedgerow.

Appendix 1 Hedgerow survey records site B: E of Court Drove 18th July 2017

Hedge ref	E Court Drove, Eastern side	E Court Drove, Western side
Date	16-07-17	16-07-17
Grid ref	SU 5118 5003	SU 5115 5009
Side surveyed	East	West
Surveyors	Alan Stevens, Valda Stevens	Alan Stevens, Valda Stevens

Whole hedge

Adjacent Lane use side A	improved grassland	U road
Adjacent land use side B	U road	improved grassland
Connections end C	post and rail fence	post and rail fence
Connections end D	post and rail fence	post and rail fence
Hedgerow trees	over 5	over 5
Cross section bank	half bank side B	half bank side A
Bank height	0.5 - 1m	0.5 - 1m
Bank type	earth	earth
Bank management	fenced off	mown / cut
Other features side A	netting fence 0.6 - 1.2 m	none
Other features side B	none	netting fence 0.6 - 1.2 m

30m structure / management

Average height	4.1m+	4.1m +
Average width at base	2.1 - 4m	2.1 - 4m
Integrity	stock-proof	stock-proof
Recent management	recent under 2 years	recent under 2 years
Type recent management	flailed / trimmed	flailed / trimmed
>10 year management	none	none
typical cross section	unclipped	clipped and dense

Dominance Woody species per 30m

Blackthorn	7	6
Brambles	3	3
Clematis (Old Man's Beard)	3	0
Deadly Nightshade	1	0
Field Maple	3	4
Hawthorn	3	0
Hazel	2	0
Ivy	6	8
Rose (Dog)	4	4
White Bryony	1	0