

## Company Directive

### STANDARD TECHNIQUE : EW1F/1

#### Removal of Hedgerows

##### Summary

This Standard Technique replaces Environmental Instruction EI No:1.  
The mandatory procedure for the removal of hedgerows is defined.

**Author:** Christian Hjelm and Jill Griffiths

**Implementation Date:** November 2011

**Approved by**



**Consents and Wayleaves Manager**

**Date:**

28/11/11

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Legislation was introduced on 1 June 1997 entitled “The Hedgerows Regulations”, for the protection of important hedgerows.
- 1.2 Before removing any such hedgerow, unless undertaking permitted work, a Hedgerow Removal Notice shall be submitted to the local planning authority. The hedgerow shall not be removed if a hedgerow retention notice is served within 42 days.

## **2.0 DEFINITION OF IMPORTANT HEDGEROWS**

- 2.1 Hedgerows are “Important” if they have existed for 30 years or more and contain species which are categorised as “endangered”, “extinct”, “rare” or “vulnerable” or the hedge is on or runs alongside agricultural land, common land, land used for forestry, breeding or keeping horses, ponies or donkeys or a local nature reserve / SSSI (note - hedgerows around a garden or house are not covered by the Regulations). Further detailed definitions are available in Schedule 1 of the Act – for further detailed information, consult the Consents and Wayleaves team or Company Environment Manager.

## **3.0 PERMITTED WORK**

- 3.1 Permitted work (where a Hedgerow Removal Notice is not required) includes:
  - obtaining temporary access to give assistance in an emergency
  - making a new opening in substitution for an existing opening
  - carrying out development where planning permission has been granted - this includes s.37 work if the hedgerow removal was specified in the s.37 application
  - obtaining access to land where another means of access is not available or only at disproportionate cost
  - carrying out any felling, lopping or cutting back required to prevent obstruction of or interference with electric lines and plant, or to prevent danger
  - proper management of the hedgerow

#### **4.0 APPLYING FOR PERMISSION TO REMOVE HEDGEROWS**

4.1 For other work requiring the removal of a hedgerow the process is:

- The form in Appendix A must be submitted to the appropriate local planning authority in whose area the hedgerow is situated (or the authority in which the greater part of the hedgerow is situated)
- 42 days from the planning authority's receipt of the form must be allowed
- If no hedgerow retention notice is received the removal can take place.

4.2 The removal of a hedgerow in contravention of this legislation could result in a fine and the requirement to plant another hedgerow using trees and shrubs as specified.

#### **5.0 ACTION REQUIRED**

5.1 Consider work areas where forms need to be submitted. It is unlikely that most work carried out by WPD will be affected by this Act. If in doubt check with local Estates, Wayleave or Consents and Wayleave Specialist.

5.2 For more detailed advice on the definition of important hedgerows and other aspects of this legislation:

**CONTACT THE CONSENTS AND WAYLEAVES TEAM or ENVIRONMENT POLICY  
TEAM**

**HEDGEROW REMOVAL NOTICE**

[<click here for Word version>](#)

The Environment Act 1995  
The Hedgerows Regulations 1997

To: *(Name and address of local planning authority)* .....

.....

.....

From: *(Name and address of person giving the notice)* .....

.....

.....

1. I give you notice under regulation 5(1)(a) of the above Regulations that I propose to remove the stretch(es) of hedgerow(s) indicated on the attached plan. *(If possible please provide a plan to a scale of 1:2500. A different scale can be used so long as it shows clearly the location and length of the hedgerow(s) that you wish to remove)*
2. The reasons why I propose to remove it/them are the following:-
3. Of the stretches of hedgerow(s) indicated those marked with an "X" were planted less than 30 years ago. Evidence of the date of planting is attached.
4. I am/act for the utility operator concerned.

.....

*(Signature of person giving notice)*

.....

*(Date)*

## **APPENDIX B**

### **SUPERSEDED DOCUMENTS**

This document supersedes ST:EW1F dated June 2000 which should now be withdrawn.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **ANCILLARY DOCUMENTS**

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

Immediate.

## **APPENDIX E**

### **POLICY IMPACT**

No change to policy. Housekeeping updates only and updates to recent best practice.

## **APPENDIX F**

### **KEY WORDS**

None.