

Response ID ANON-EXVA-T8M7-4

Submitted to Consultation on Protecting Hedgerows
Submitted on 2023-09-15 08:07:40

Introduction

1 Would you like your response to be confidential?

No

If you answered Yes to this question, please give your reason.:

2 What is your name?

Name:
Ruth Beckley

3 What is your email address?

Email:
admin@algao.org.uk

4 Which of these sectors do you most align yourself or your organisation with?

Public body

Please specify, if needed :
Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers

5 If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, what is its name?

Organisation :
Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers

6 In which part of the United Kingdom are you based?

England

If other, please state :
United Kingdom

7 If you are a farmer or a land manager, what enterprises do you have on your farm (if applicable)?

8 Are you happy to be contacted in the future for further research?

Yes

Consultation Questions

9 Should we maintain the requirement for buffer strips that are 2m from the centre of the hedgerow?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

10 If we maintain the 2m buffer strip requirement, should we also replicate an exemption for field sizes under 2 hectares?

No

Please use this space for any additional comments:

From a heritage perspective, smaller fields may represent older, relict landscapes that we should seek to protect. Older hedgerows are more species diverse and are therefore a priority for protection.

11 If we maintain the 2m buffer strip requirement, should we also replicate an exemption for hedgerows under 5 years old?

No

Please use this space for any additional comments:

While new, hedgerows under 5 years old should be given the same protection in order to protect their potential. This statement should also be made clearer as replacement hedgerows on older field systems could also fall under this category

12 Should we maintain a no cutting period to ensure hedgerows are managed in a way which protects important bird species?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

13 Should the no cutting period remain as 1 March to 31 August, or be amended to an alternative?

Remain 1 March to 31 August

Please set out your reasoning or evidence below :

Cutting date evidence :

No file uploaded

14 If we maintain a no cutting period, should we also replicate exemptions to the regulations?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

15 If you answered yes to the previous question, should there be a requirement to apply to the relevant authority for an exemption?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

16 Should we introduce a new exemption to the hedgerow management requirements for farms under 5 hectares?

No

Please use this space for any additional comments:

Smallholdings or smaller farms may represent historic landscapes that should be protected from a historic and natural environment perspective. Size of a farm should not be a material consideration for hedgerow preservation. Lots of smaller landholdings are in the uplands or more 'marginal' areas where field boundaries can often be ancient and hedges can make a significant contribution to landscape character.

17 If we amend the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 to include additional management measures, we will require an additional definition of what constitutes an important hedgerow for the proposed measures. Do you agree with the below definition of an 'important hedgerow' for hedgerow management activities only?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

18 Where should we focus our ambitions for future hedgerows policy?

Answer::

19 If we develop further protections, should we consider extending them to hedgerows outside of agricultural land?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

Delivery questions

20 Do you agree stop notices should be introduced, prohibiting a person from continuing a harmful activity? Stop notices can be used on their own or in conjunction with a monetary penalty.

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

21 Do you agree compliance notices should be introduced, requiring a non-compliant person to undertake certain actions to bring themselves back into compliance?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments :

22 Do you agree restoration notices should be introduced to rectify any harms resulting from non-compliance?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

23 Do you agree variable monetary penalties should be introduced, increasing in value relative to the severity of actual harm?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

24 Do you agree fixed monetary penalties should be introduced, and used at the discretion of the regulator?

Yes

Please use this space for any additional comments:

Consultee Feedback on the Online Survey

25 Overall, how satisfied are you with our online consultation tool?

Satisfied

26 Please give us any comments you have on the tool, including suggestions on how we could improve it.

Comments:

its fine. I like that there is a downloadable pdf that lists all the questions so I can prepare answers.