

APPLICATION NO	PA/2015/0350
APPLICANT	N & A Durdy
DEVELOPMENT	Hedgerow removal application for hedge east of Low Burnham, Epworth, grid reference 402495-478670
LOCATION	Arable field, A161 between Epworth and Haxey, Low Burnham
PARISH	HAXEY
WARD	Axholme South
CASE OFFICER	Andrea Brocklebank
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION	The hedge is not important when assessed against the provisions of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (the Regulations)
REASONS FOR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE	Objection by Haxey Parish Council

POLICIES

North Lincolnshire Local Plan: Policy LC12 applies.

PARISH COUNCIL

Agree with an objection by a local resident.

PUBLICITY

Neighbouring properties have been notified and a site notice posted.

One local resident has objected on the following grounds:

- There are several woody species within this hedgerow, which would deem it to be important under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997.
- The hedgerow is visible from a public foot path and its removal would be detrimental to the landscape.
- Removal would erode the historic landscape further eradicating evidence of the historical parcels (strips) that are part of the heritage of the area.

ASSESSMENT

When a removal notice is received the council must determine it using criteria specified within the Regulations, ie it must decide whether or not the hedge is deemed to be important.

The importance of the hedge is considered firstly as to whether it has been in existence for 30 years or more and if this is the case whether it satisfies at least one of the criteria listed under the Archaeology & History and/or Wildlife & Landscape sections of the Regulations.

If the hedge is considered important when assessed against these criteria, a Hedgerow Retention Notice can be served.

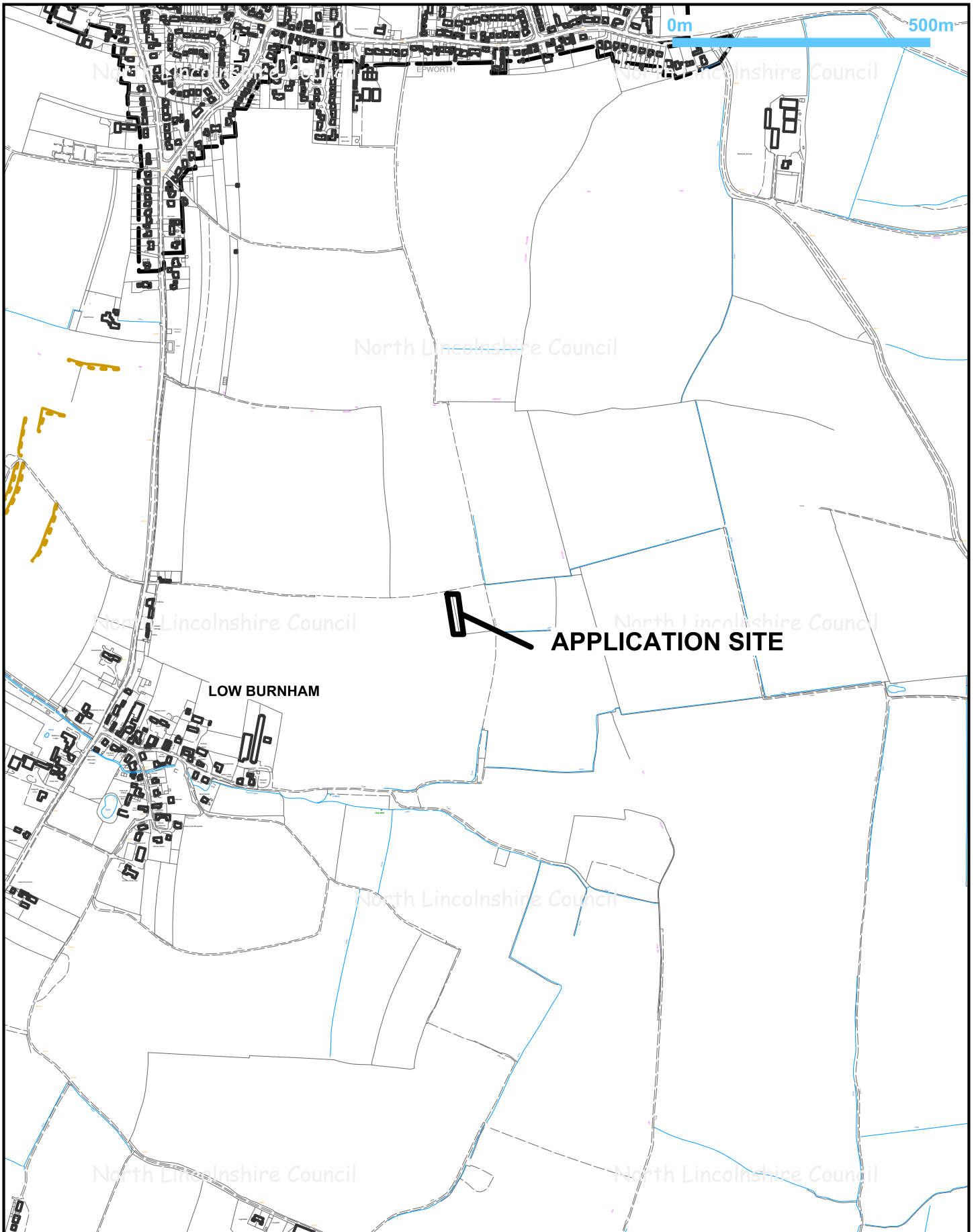
An assessment has been made of the hedge and it is considered that it is over 30 years old. The council's ecologist, however, upon visiting the site, concluded that there are insufficient species of woody plant within the hedge for it to be considered 'important' within the Wildlife & Landscape section of the Regulations.

The council's Historic Environmental Record (HER) assessed the area from an archaeological and history perspective. Initially officers of the HER felt that the hedge may satisfy criteria under the Archaeology & History section of the Regulations for it to be considered important. Further investigation of more detailed historic mapping, however, revealed this not to be the case.

That the hedge is visible within the open countryside and its removal may be detrimental is not a reason under the Regulations to consider it 'important'.

It is considered, therefore, that the hedge does not satisfy criteria specified in the Regulations for it to be considered 'important'; a Hedgerow Retention Notice cannot therefore be served.

RECOMMENDATION: That a Hedgerow Retention Notice is not served.



Title: PA/2015/0350

Drawn by: Sue Barden

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Scale 1:10000



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