

16

**Back Lane
Hedgerow &
Verges**



Location		Between Orchard Cottage and Daphne Cottage
Features	o	Very old hedgerow which was laid in 1995 by Peter Tunks (National Hedgelaying champion) .
	o	Excellent mix of hedgerow species
	o	Features 12 Elm stumps which are the final remnants of the mature elms that were a feature of the village until Dutch Elm disease killed them in the 1950's.
	o	Wide grass verges especially near the pond
	o	Massive mature oak in the hedgerow adjacent to the pond.
	o	Hedgerow is technically the responsibility of Ryde Farm Estate but has been adopted by the PC for maintenance
Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Orchard Cottage to Pond</i> - low cut hedgerow - with 4 elm stumps. Some rotting wood habitat but much of the hedgerow has been cut and the hedge bottom 'cleansed'. Cuttings and logs burned immediately. Hedge is 'thin' and offers little habitat.
	✓	<i>Pond - Daphne Cottage</i> - tall hedgerow with 8 elm stumps. Rotting wood habitat. Good amount of ivy as shelter. Hedgerow has not been 'cleansed' so the hedge is thick and provides shelter, nesting and food.
Species Priority	✓	See attached Species list
	✓	Old tree stumps are high value habitat for Stag and other Beetles. They will continue to rot slowly for many years to come.
Current Management	o	In recent years the southern part of the hedge has been cut yearly, the hedge bottom 'cleansed' and logs & cuttings burned
	o	Some of the old elm stumps which are high value habitat for Stag Beetles have been dug out and burned.
	o	Low hedgerow section has been cut to 1.5 metres. All hedgerow wood and cuttings have been burned immediately.
	o	Grass verges are 100% cut along whole length which is unnecessary time and fuel and leaves no long grass for insects and some plants to thrive and seed.
Management Guidance	1	Continue to cut hedge top and both sides bi-annually. Compost smallest cuttings. Woody branches can be left in the hedgerow floor to decompose over several years, providing wildlife food and shelter and ultimately nutrition for the hedgerow plants. Do not burn wood cuttings.
	2	Ensure contractors are aware of ecological value of elm stumps and leave them undisturbed.
	3	Grass cutting can be reduced to 50% of verges or 1 metre strip by the road (whichever is the smaller) to encourage more insects, flowers, seeds and shelter without any impact on access. Minimise any cutting April to July when flowers are out and seeding. In September cut long grass back to 6 inches. South of pond cut a bench area overlooking the pond.