

## Do you speak Ely? If 'jearse', he wants to hear from you...

A JAPAN-based teacher has put out an appeal to the people of the Isle of Ely, to find out if their traditional vocabulary is dying out.

Stephen Howe teaches English in Japan, but was born in the Isle of Ely.

Next month he will give a lecture in Cambridge on the East Anglian dialect his ancestors spoke, and has appealed to local residents to help

with his research.

He said: "I am interested in the East Anglian dialect that my grandparents spoke, my father speaks and that I can speak.

"This March, I will give a talk at Cambridge University on the words 'jearse' and 'dow' – emphatic words for 'yes' and 'no' – used in the Isle of Ely and possibly other parts of

vehicle at an "extremely slow rate of speed".

Mr Hauschild added: "He has never

more than 10 per cent... that we are going to disqualify you from driving as we see no need not to do that."

Mongan was also offered a drink driving course which, if taken, could reduce his sentence by 17 weeks.

might be possible to ask your readers whether they know and use these words?

"I would be very interested to see how widespread they still are and how they are used."

He has created an online survey for people in the area to fill out which can be seen at [www.stephenhowe.info/survey](http://www.stephenhowe.info/survey).