

Clark Landscape Design

Landscape Proposals, Planting Schedule and Specification

1/1223/2021/FUL

Land at Caddywell Lane, Great Torrington, Devon



April 2022

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Plant Specification, Schedule, Maintenance and Management

Plant Schedule

Hedgerow – 45-60cm bare root stock

Protected by spiral rabbit guards

(4/m in double staggered rows at 0.5m apart)

204	Acer campestre (30%)
204	Corylus avellana (30%)
204	Crataegus monogyna (30%)
68	Ilex aquifolium (10%)

Trees

Protected by spiral rabbit guards

Trees – 1.8-2.4m feathered

2	Acer campestre
1	Malus sylvestris
2	Quercus robur
1	Sorbus aucuparia

General landscape specification

The following planting will be carried out in accordance with:

BS8545:2014 – Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape

BS4428:1989 – Code of practice for general landscape operations (excluding hard surfaces)

BS3936-4:2007 – Nursery stock (specification for forest trees, poplars and willows)

Herbicides should be applied strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985.

It will be the responsibility of the developer to design foundations to accommodate all proposed and existing tree and shrub planting, with reference made to NHBC Standards, Parts 4.2, 2011 (*Building near Trees*).

The developer should satisfy themselves that all trees are a safe distance from drainage runs and services and that no planting falls within service strips.

The landscape contractors shall make themselves aware of all service locations prior to commencing planting operations.

Where any deviation from this specification occurs within a scheme, the contractor shall request the relevant detail from the designer prior to proceeding.

Plant Stock

All plant material to be as specified in the Plant Schedule, and available for inspection by the Landscape Architect.

All plant material to be in accordance with BS8545:2014 – Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape; BS3969 1998 'Recommendations for Turf for General Purpose' and 'Handling and Establishing Landscape Plants' HTA 1985, revised edition March 2002.

Any stock planted outside the recognised planting season to be containerised. Containerised plant stock to have fully developed root system within the specified pot size. Where growing on in the nursery is necessary all plant material is to be re-potted to the next approved pot size, re-spaced to

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allow for 15-20% growth per growing season and maintained to healthy vigorous growth irrespective of weather conditions.

Planting Specification - Proposed Trees and Hedges

All planting areas to be weed free prior to planting and weeded as necessary on a regular basis thereafter.

Tree and Hedgerow Planting

All hedgerow trees to be planted within the hedgerow banks and their location marked with a 3m high marker post so that when hedge trimming the new trees can be identified and not be trimmed as per the hedgerow.

Hedging to be notch planted. Work to be in accordance with BS4043:1989. All trees to be checked regularly for the duration of the 12 Month Maintenance Period.

All planting stock to be protected by spiral rabbit guards each with a cane for support.

Year one maintenance

Regular visits shall be made for twelve months following practical completion, to maintain all planted areas in a weed and litter free condition. Minimum number of visits to be:-

- Tree and hedgerow areas min. 6 visits per annum

Maintenance visits to include watering, pruning, pest/disease control, litter removal, checking tree stakes as required.

Please refer to the **Plant Schedules** above for details of species.

Maintenance and management for the first five years

Any plants that are found dying or dead within the first five years after planting will be replaced like for like.

During the first two growing seasons any weed growth will be hand weeded at least three times during the growing season in April, June and September.

Hedgerow plants will be lightly side and top pruned to encourage bushy growth.

Trees will be formatively pruned annually to remove crossing, diseased and broken branches. After two years it should be possible to remove the short stakes subject to good establishment of root stock.

After two years the trees and hedgerows should be well established and no longer require weeding on a regular basis.

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Hedgerow Translocation Method Statement

The proposed development off the Caddywell Lane site requires a highway visibility splay that cannot be met with the existing hedgerow in its current position. It was agreed as part of the planning approval that the best option was to translocate the hedgerow rather than replace it. In consideration of the above option reference was made to the Devon Hedges book produced jointly by the Devon Hedge Group and Devon County Council which has a section on 'Moving Hedges'.

The advice suggests that where retention of a hedgerow is not possible, moving the hedge can offer the following advantages over outright removal.

- The hedge is likely to be more in keeping with the surrounding landscape than a new boundary feature such as a fence or unbanked hedge.
- Where works are carried out well, the integrity and visual character of the original hedge can be maintained, together with much of its cultural, environmental and landscape value.
- A translocated hedge will establish and grow in its new position more quickly than a new hedge.
- Translocation retains the genetic stock and seed bank of the original woody and herbaceous plants.
- The retention of the original and nutrient poor soils can help to reduce weed infestation problems.

Given the above advantages the next consideration is would this hedge be suitable for translocation. The advice is that moving a hedge is most likely to be the favoured option where:

- The hedge is of particular landscape or wildlife importance. It may, for example, be recognised as an "Important Hedgerow" under the Hedgerows Regulations.
- The original bank is turf faced rather than stone faced.
- It is in good condition, having a well-defined and maintained bank rather than one which is slumped and gappy.
- The hedge is to be moved only a short distance, usually no more than 5m or so, as moving it further increases risk and expense.
- The surrounding ground is level, although hedges can be moved across moderate slopes.
- The work can be carried out during autumn or winter months when hedge growth is dormant and the ground is sufficiently moist, but not frozen or waterlogged.
- The hedge contains no trees and therefore no tree roots will be affected possibly disturbing tree roots.

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The hedgerow off Caddywell Lane meets most of the above criteria in that it is proposed to move the hedgerow a short distance, approximately 2.5m at its greatest, and the works can be carried out during the dormant winter months. The hedge has been well maintained at about 2.5m high during the summer months and contains no trees. The mix of the hedgerow contains predominantly hazel, with some blackthorn. The bank is grass faced on the lane side at approximately 1.5m high. The disturbance to the roots will be relatively minor. The hedge is historically important under the Hedgerow Regulations, less important for hedgerow relocations, but also contains species good for wildlife such as hazel and blackthorn which are good for birds and insects. Given the above the recommendation was that the hedgerow would be suitable for translocation with the accompanying advantages that the method has, over removal and replanting, as identified in five points from 'Devon Hedges' above.

Techniques for Moving Devon hedges

There are three main techniques for moving hedgerows. The first two listed below are preferred methods where the hedge is to be moved a short distance (less than 5m) over fairly level ground. The third is more suitable for moving hedges further or over uneven or sloping ground and was not considered necessary or suitable in this instance. Generally, the larger the machinery used, the less damage will ensue.

1. Dragging sections
The hedge is split into sections which are re-joined after moving, limiting major disturbance to the joins.
2. Incremental dragging
The entire hedge is dragged (or pushed) in very small, incremental stages without breaking it. If done well, this is the best technique and can give superb results, but it is a slightly slower and more skilled operation than dragging sections.
3. Lifting and rebuilding
Lifting whole chunks and using them to rebuild the hedge.

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It is proposed to use the incremental dragging/pushing technique given the short distance for relocation and the potential to create a trench to push the hedge into.

Preparatory works

The hedge will be prepared as follows:

- Remove the existing poorly shaped Sycamore tree near the site entrance and replace with a Rowan once the hedgerow has been translocated.
- Cut back the existing woody growth, outside the bird breeding season (March to mid-September). Trim back by flailing or trimming the hedge to no more than 0.75m high during the autumn before moving.
- Create a channel to the required depth, approximately 300mm deep, between the existing hedge and its relocated position.

Incremental Dragging/Pushing

Machinery: Tracked mechanical excavator with a 360° swing shovel (usually 13 tonne or larger) and a selection of buckets.

Method

- Rather than pulling it will be more effective, in this instance, to push the hedgerow.
- Move the bank in increments continuously tracking up and down the selected length, to retain its original structure at all times working from the lane side into the site.
- Once in the required position the soil on the lane side will be excavated away to the required level leaving a bank approximately 1.2m high (the site slopes down to the north and therefore the existing soil levels will be slightly lower than those on the new road frontage).
- The front edge of the bank will be trimmed and shaped to an angle of 75 degrees.
- Any gaps in the hedgerow will be planted with hawthorn planted as 60-90cm bare root plants at 0.45m centres.
- The whole hedgebank will then be irrigated to help to re-settle the soil and roots.

Maintenance

Once the translocation has been completed the hedgerow will be maintained as specified in the Landscape Specification.