

Heron Associates

The Old Shop
Kingcoed
Usk
Monmouthshire
NP15 1DS



Date: 28th September 2023

Job ref: LH/3826

Specification for hedge planting**Ground preparation:**

As the ground is turf-covered, turf-planting would be appropriate, i.e. dig over the planting area, turning over the turf and planting in the upturned soil. In this way, the hedge plants will grow in the exposed topsoil and the buried turf will rot and provide nutrients.

Species:

In order to remain in keeping with the surrounding countryside, a mixture of native species will be planted with a few trees (whips) at intervals along the hedge-line. The main purpose of the hedge will be to provide a wildlife corridor but species may also be chosen that will provide a stock-proof barrier in later years. Hedge plants purchased will be 45-60cm and trees 60-90cm whips. A typical mix of local species will be as follows:

Hedge Plants:

Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	40%
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	20%
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	10%
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	10%
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	10%
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	5%
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	3%
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	2%

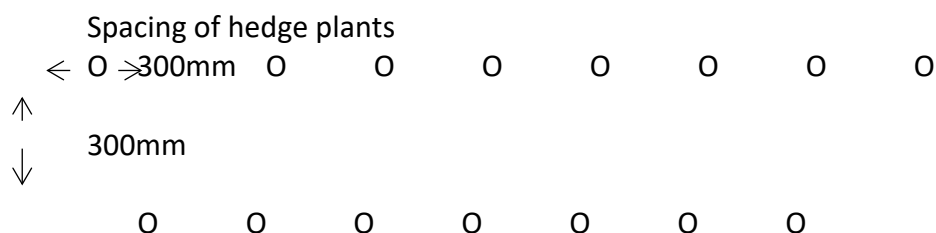
Individual Trees:

Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>

Numbers and Spacing:

The hedge plants will be spaced at 300mm intervals in two rows, 300mm apart. Planting will be staggered so that a plant in the second row is mid-way between plants in the first row – see diagram below. This would give about 6 plants per running metre of (double) hedge-line.

Individual trees should be planted at approximately 6-metre intervals (but not exactly, to avoid regularity). Therefore, in the above example, 24 trees would be required – 8 of each of the 3 species chosen.



Planting season:

Hedging plants are usually supplied bare-rooted. This restricts the planting season to the winter months when the roots are dormant. The best time to plant a new hedge is therefore from November to March.

Maintenance:

Protection:

As the plot is adjacent to existing agricultural land, it should be assumed that rabbits exist in the area. Therefore, all plants should be protected. If individual protection is decided on, use spiral guards for the hedge plants and 600mm tree shelters for the individual trees.

Weeding: Should be carried out for the first 3 years, either by hand or by chemical spraying.

Replacement of failed plants: Should be undertaken as required in order to maintain the continuity of the hedge line.

Pruning: The hedge can either be “left to its own devices” or, (if extra-thick multiple growth is required) severe pruning or “stumping back” could be undertaken after the first year, and maybe also after the second.

Trimming:

Sides should be trimmed from year 4 onwards, in order to maintain good shape to the sides and maintain the hedge line.

Laying:

At year 7, hedge-laying could be undertaken in order to provide a good stock-proof barrier and encourage thick future growth.