

Planting specification – hedgerow planting at BESS, Leeway House, Newport

May 2025

Species mix

Hedgerow planting to be based on percentage mix as follows:

- Hawthorn – 40%
- Dog rose – 20%
- Field maple – 20%
- Birch – 15%
- Blackthorn – 5%

Hedgerow to have specimen trees spaced between 5-9 metres apart within the hedge mix.

Size

Hedgerow is to be planted using transplants that are 40-60cm tall, with tree specimens slightly larger. For example ash or field maple tree specimens to be planted at 90-120cm tall.

Setting out

Set out of hedgerow will be in two lines, spaced 40cm apart and planted in 40cm spaced staggered in parallel rows.

Planting

Hedging plants to be planted into a prepared trench, backfilled with topsoil and compost mix. Planting is to be carried out using bare-root plants, in the dormant season (November-mid-March).

Plant protection

Protection to be provided against rabbits and rodents, etc. Protective guards will help achieve successful and robust establishment. Use of either shelterguards or transparent spiral guards, with a cane support per plant to be used.

Maintenance

Initial establishment (years 0-3):

- Water during dry periods in first summer, especially in year 1.
- Keep 1m strip weed-free for at least three years
- Hand weed, mulch or strim carefully – avoiding damage to stems of planted species
- Replant failed plants in years 1-2 with same or similar species

Mid term management (years 3-10):

- Prune by lightly trimming tops and sides in winter (late Feb) to encourage bushy growth
- Specimen trees to be left untrimmed to develop canopy form
- Control climbers by managing bramble, ivy and bindweed

Long term management (years 10+)

- Hedgerow trimming every 2-3 years to allow flowering/fruiting
- Trimming to be carried out in late winter (Jan-Feb) to avoid nesting birds
- Allow specimen trees to grow to full height; manage for form, health, and safety.