

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION SUBMISSION

Planning Application Ref: 24/0563

Site: Silver Birches, Wentwood Road, Penhow, Newport, NP26 3AE

This submission is made to discharge Condition 3 of the above planning permission, which requires the approval of a scheme of landscaping and tree planting along the western site boundary. We understand from recent correspondence that the previous annotation referring to "plug planting" used the wrong terminology, the planting undertaken comprised bare-root *whips*.

Clarification of Planting Works

In anticipation of planning approval and in a genuine effort to satisfy the condition in good faith, the proposed planting was undertaken along the full western boundary in late spring 2025, ahead of peak summer to maximise establishment success. This ensured the plants benefitted from spring soil moisture and optimal rooting conditions.

A total of 150 bare-root whips, each around 150–200mm in height at planting, were installed directly into the existing hedgerow where gaps were evident. In weaker sections of the hedge, the planting was carried out in a double staggered row formation at approximately 5–6 plants per linear metre, with rows spaced 30–40cm apart and plants within each row spaced 30–45cm apart. In areas where the hedge was particularly thin, additional whips were planted to achieve a denser screen, while stronger sections retained continuity without unnecessary disturbance.

Species Mix Planted

- 50% *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn) – 75 whips
- 20% *Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn) – 30 whips
- 10% *Acer campestre* (Field Maple) – 15 whips
- 10% *Corylus avellana* (Hazel) – 15 whips
- 5% *Rosa canina* (Dog Rose) – 7 whips
- 5% *Ilex aquifolium* (Holly) – 8 whips

The plants were bedded into enriched topsoil with a bark mulch layer to suppress weeds, retain moisture, and regulate root temperature. Since planting, the hedgerow has taken root successfully and is showing healthy early growth, with new shoots and leaves visible along much of its length.

Evidence of Establishment

Recent site photographs, included at the end of this submission, show the planted native whips in situ along the western boundary. These images confirm strong survival rates and early establishment, with visible thickening in previously sparse areas. This provides both an immediate visual improvement and a solid foundation for achieving a dense, wildlife-friendly boundary in the coming years.

Management Schedule

- Years 1–2: Maintain bark mulch to suppress weeds and conserve moisture, water during prolonged dry spells, and carry out manual or shallow hoe weeding to prevent competition.
- Years 3–5: Continue weed control as required and begin formative pruning during the dormant season to encourage dense, bushy growth.
- Annual Monitoring: Inspect the planting line each spring for failed plants or signs of disease. Replace any losses in the next planting season with whips of the same species and size.
- Long-Term Maintenance: Retain the mixed-species character of the hedge, trimming lightly only after flowering and berrying periods to maximise biodiversity value.

We trust this submission now fully satisfies the landscaping condition. The planting was carried out in good faith to avoid delay, ensure ecological benefits were delivered early, and make full use of the spring planting window for successful establishment.

















