

# Arboricultural Report

Proposed native hedgerow – feasibility and planting specification

## **SITE LOCATION**

Springwell Lane  
Harefield  
WD3 8UU

## **PREPARED FOR**

Alex Yerby

## **PREPARED BY**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### Instruction

- 1.1 Davies Arboriculture Ltd has been instructed by the Client to undertake a site visit to assess the proposed planting location for a new hedgerow and to provide arboricultural information demonstrating the feasibility of the proposals. The instruction also requires the provision of appropriate planting specifications to satisfy a request from the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for “arboricultural information demonstrating the feasibility of hedging and planting specifications”.
- 1.2 The LPA has requested the establishment of a native mixed British hedgerow comprising species such as blackthorn, hawthorn, field maple, dog rose and hazel.

### Scope

- 1.3 This report:
  - records observations made during the site visit;
  - assesses soil conditions, planting space and constraints;
  - considers the suitability of the location for hedgerow establishment; and
  - provides planting and aftercare specifications in accordance with BS 8545:2014 *Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape*.

### Author

- 1.4 This report was written by Lee Davies, a Chartered Arboriculturist with over 20 years of experience in the arboricultural industry. He is a professional member of the *Institute of Chartered Foresters* and the *Arboricultural Association* and holds the *Level 6 Diploma in Arboriculture (ABC)*.

## 2. LIMITATIONS

- 2.1 This report is limited to an assessment of the proposed hedgerow planting location and associated soil conditions observed at the time of the site visit. No laboratory soil analysis has been undertaken. Observations are based on a single trial hole and visual inspection of the surrounding area.

## 3. THE SITE

### Site details

- 3.1 The site comprises a fenced area adjacent to Springwell Lane that was previously used as a car park. The proposed hedgerow will be located between the site boundary fence,



which will be replaced with green mesh fencing, and the kerb line. Existing bollards and associated concrete foundations are present within the proposed planting zone and will be removed by the Client prior to planting the native mixed hedgerow. Existing laurel hedge plants will also be removed from within the fenced-off site prior to planting.



## 4. SITE VISIT AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 A site visit was undertaken by Lee Davies in December 2025. During the visit:

- a trial hole was excavated within the proposed planting zone to assess soil profile, texture, structure and available rooting volume;
- soil pH was assessed using a field test kit;
- drainage characteristics and evidence of compaction were evaluated visually and by hand; and
- the spatial relationship between the fence, kerb and existing hard features was assessed.

## 5. SOIL AND PLANTING CONDITIONS

### Soil Texture and Structure

- 5.1 The soil encountered within the trial hole comprised a loamy sand with a noticeable proportion of gravel. The soil could be rolled into a ball but not into a cylinder, indicating a relatively light-textured soil with good aeration. The soil was loose and friable, with no evidence of significant compaction.



### Drainage

- 5.2 Drainage characteristics appear to be good, reflecting the sandy nature of the soil and the high gravel content. No evidence of waterlogging or gleying was observed within the trial hole.

### Soil pH

- 5.3 The measured soil pH was 6.5, which is broadly neutral and suitable for the proposed native hedgerow species, including blackthorn, hawthorn, field maple, dog rose and hazel.





## 6. PLANTING SPACE AND CONSTRAINTS

- 6.1 Concrete associated with the existing kerb foundations was observed within the planting zone. However, sufficient space is available for new hedgerow planting once the bollards and their concrete fixings are removed. Approximately 400mm is available between the kerb footing and the proposed green mesh boundary fence, allowing a double row planted at 300mm centres to be accommodated.



- 6.2 The ground within the fenced area adjacent to the planting location comprises crushed aggregate overlying soil. No evidence of any subsurface barrier restricting root spread into the site was observed, which means that roots will be able to extend laterally into the adjacent site, and the proposed hedgerow will not be containerised or otherwise root-restricted.

## 7. FEASIBILITY OF HEDGEROW PLANTING

- 7.1 Based on the site observations, soil conditions and available space, it is considered that the proposed native mixed British hedgerow is feasible and appropriate at this location. The soil texture, pH and drainage characteristics are all suitable for the species specified by the LPA, and no overriding physical constraints were identified that would prevent successful establishment.

## 8. PLANTING SPECIFICATION (IN ACCORDANCE WITH BS 8545)

### Species Mix

- 8.1 A native mixed hedgerow comprising an appropriate blend of the following species is recommended:
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
  - Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
  - Field maple (*Acer campestre*)
  - Dog rose (*Rosa canina*)
  - Hazel (*Corylus avellana*)
- 8.2 The final mix and proportions may be adjusted slightly to reflect plant availability, provided all species remain native and appropriate to the site.

### Planting Stock

- 8.3 Planting stock shall comprise:
- Transplants or whips, typically 40–60 cm or 60–90 cm in height.
  - Plants to be supplied in accordance with relevant nursery standards and free from defects.

### Spacing

- 8.4 Plants shall be spaced as follows:
- Double staggered rows at approximately 300 mm between rows
  - Plants spaced at approximately 5–6 plants per linear metre overall.

### Backfill and Soil Improvement

- 8.5 Where additional soil is required following removal of bollards and concrete foundations, imported backfill should comprise:
- a sandy loam or loamy sand topsoil compatible with the existing soil;
  - low fertility, free-draining material; and
  - free from rubble, contaminants and excessive organic matter.
- 8.6 Backfill should be lightly firmed to remove large air voids while avoiding compaction, in accordance with BS 8545 principles.

## Planting Timing

- 8.7 Hedgerow planting should be undertaken during the dormant season, typically between November and March, when plants are supplied as bare-root transplants or whips. Where planting is required outside of this period, container-grown stock should be used, and enhanced watering and aftercare measures implemented in accordance with the principles set out in BS 8545:2014.

## 9. PROTECTION AND AFTERCARE

### Protection

- 9.1 To protect young plants from rabbit and small mammal damage, one of the following measures should be implemented:
- individual spiral guards secured with canes; or
  - low wire mesh fencing along the length of the hedgerow.
- 9.2 The choice of protection should reflect site conditions and anticipated grazing pressure.

### Mulching

- 9.3 Mulch shall be applied as follows:
- A mulch layer of organic material (e.g. composted bark) to a depth of approximately 50–75 mm.
  - Mulch should be kept clear of direct contact with stems.

### Watering

- 9.4 Watering shall be undertaken as follows
- Thorough watering immediately after planting.
  - Regular watering during the first two growing seasons, particularly during prolonged dry periods.

### Establishment and Maintenance

- 9.5 To provide the best chance of successful establishment, the following shall be undertaken:
- Regular inspection during the establishment period.
  - Replacement of failed plants during the next available planting season.
  - Removal or adjustment of guards as plants establish to prevent constriction.



- 9.6 All aftercare should be undertaken in line with the principles set out in BS 8545, with the aim of achieving successful establishment and long-term independence of the hedgerow.

## 10. CONCLUSIONS

- 10.1 The proposed native mixed British hedgerow is feasible at the assessed location. Soil conditions, drainage, pH and available planting space are suitable for the species requested by the Local Planning Authority. Subject to the removal of existing laurel, bollards and associated concrete, and implementation of the planting and aftercare recommendations set out in this report, the hedgerow is likely to establish successfully and provide a sustainable landscape feature in the long term.



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