
Overview

This standard describes the requirements for laying a hedge

This standard involves identifying the species of the plant that you are working with and determining the purpose of the hedge. You must also have knowledge of other species and the characteristics of those species and suitability for hedging

You must determine the style of hedge to be laid and the effect this will have on the way in which you work. Whilst you may work predominately with one style you must also be aware of other regional styles

This standard is for those involved with hedge laying

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Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed works
 - P2 identify the main purpose and species of the hedge
 - P3 determine the style in which the hedge laying will take place taking account of regional variances
 - P4 measure the length of the hedged to be laid and estimate materials required
 - P5 check for the presence of utility cables and fencing
 - P6 identify and agree which hedgerow trees are to be retained and if any special protection measures exist
 - P7 estimate the number of plants required to restock the gaps
 - P8 identify the direction in which the hedge will be laid and where laying will commence
 - P9 select, prepare, maintain and store tools appropriate to the work
 - P10 prepare hedge for laying
 - P11 remove dead wood and other unwanted materials
 - P12 select, cut and lay pleachers at the correct angle, maintaining viable hinges and reduce stumps appropriately
 - P13 fill gaps as appropriate
 - P14 sharpen and install stakes at determined spacing, bind hedge and trim off stakes in accordance with the style of hedging
 - P15 remove all waste and surplus materials and dispose of them as specified
 - P16 carry out work in a way which minimises environmental damage
 - P17 maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times in accordance with current legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 how to identify hazards and assess risks
- K2 how to interpret risk assessments
- K3 the most appropriate time of year to carry out hedge laying, depending on local climate and the effect of frost on the pleachers
- K4 the effect of your work on wildlife habitat, e.g. bird nesting season
- K5 the **reasons** for laying hedges
- K6 who to contact regarding the presence of utility cables
- K7 different styles of hedge laying and regional variances
- K8 different tools and methods to undertake hedge laying
- K9 the appropriate length and diameter of stems to use as pleachers
- K10 the types and sources of binders and stakes available
- K11 hedgerow species and their characteristics
- K12 the potential impacts of your work on the environment and how these can be minimised
- K13 your responsibilities under current environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice

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**Scope/range
related to
knowledge and
understanding**

Reasons for hedge laying to include: biodiversity, stock proof, maintain landscape, etc

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Developed by Lantra

Version number 1

Date approved December 2011

Indicative review date January 2016

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation Lantra

Original URN O29GWT8

Relevant occupations Coppicing; gardener; park ranger; ranger; conservation officer; estate worker

Suite Treework; Horticulture; Environmental Conservation

Key words Hedge; pleacher; hedgerow; species; stakes
