
Tree & Hedgerow Management Plan

**Land formerly of Meadowsweet
Farm,
Trelewis,
Treharris,
CF46 6TB**

**Erection of an extension to an
existing agricultural building**

Mr Rees

January 2025

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1.0 Introduction

This Tree & Hedgerow Management Plan has been commissioned to support a current planning application for the erection of an extension to an existing agricultural building at Land Formerly of Meadowsweet Farm, Trelewis, Treharris, CF46 6TB.

As part of the planning application, it is proposed to plant a new mixed native species hedgerow along with nine new native species trees to the south and south-east of the proposed extension.

Information on how the proposed hedgerow and trees will be managed (in addition to the information already submitted on Dwg No: 79347 / GH / 004) is provided below.

2.0 Hedgerow Management

- No cutting shall take place during peak bird nesting season, which runs from March to September. Where possible, maintenance work will be delayed until January or February to provide berries for local wildlife during the winter.
- Hedge shall be cut/trimmed every 2/3 years to allow more growth and more blossom to be produced.
- If a flail is to be used for cutting, this shall be kept as sharp as possible to ensure an effective cut and reduce risk of disease.
- Hedge to be trimmed to an 'A' shape, which is thicker at the base and gets narrower at the top. This provides maximum protection for wildlife, while allowing light to reach the ground flora.
- Uncut grass buffer strips (1m wide) are to be provided each side of the hedgerow.
- Hedgerow to be layed every 15-25 years (depending on extent of thinning at the base). At the same time 'gapping up' of the hedgerow will occur to thicken up 'thin' areas of planting. Gapping up will take place with matching native species mix.
- The layed hedge is to be cared for/maintained in-line with guidance provided by the National Hedge Laying Society:
<https://www.hedgelaying.org.uk/hedgelaying/how-to-care-for-a-laid-hedge/>.

- Once laid, the new growth of the hedge is to be cut more frequently in the first 5 years, allowing the hedge to gain in height and width with each cut. This will help create the thick branched structure of healthy dense hedge.
- Gapping-up to be carried out in-line with the below:
 - *'Prepare the site – remove all weeds and roots and mix in plenty of manure and organic matter to provide the new hedge with lots of food (this will also prevent soils becoming waterlogged in winter and save you needing to water the hedge so much in summer).*
 - *Mark out two parallel lines with string, about 20cm (8 inches) apart, along the line of your new hedgerow.*
 - *Clear any grass and vegetation between the two lines of string.*
 - *Use 40cm (16 inch) lengths of cane to mark out the distances between the trees and shrubs, creating a zigzag pattern. It is advisable to plant five plants per metre for a thick hedge, at 40cm intervals. If you are planting as part of an agri-environment scheme, you will probably need to plant 6 plants per metre, in which case use 33cm (13 inch) spacing.*
 - *Dig a hole or a trench for each plant, and place the plant in the hole ensuring the roots hang straight. It should be planted to the same depth as it was in the nursery (look out for the root collar). Mix plants up as much as possible so that the hedge all grows at a similar rate.*
 - *Water well.*
 - *A mulch of chopped bark placed along the edge of your new hedgerow will lessen the number of weeds and reduce moisture loss.*
 - *In the first spring, the shrubs should be cut down to 45–60cm above the ground to encourage them to 'bush out', creating a nice thick hedge. During the first summer, weed around the base of the shrubs to prevent competition, while watering regularly. In late summer, some trees and shrubs may have died; replace them with new ones in autumn/winter to prevent gaps forming'.*

3.0 Tree Management

- Trees to be protected by stock-proof fencing for their lifetime to protect bark from sheep.
- Trees to be checked for signs of water distress during prolonged periods of dry and hot weather. In such conditions, trees to be watered with 50-75 litres per tree every other week.
- Area of 1m² to be kept clear of weeds around each tree for at least 3 years after planting. Mulching with organic matter to be employed to aid weed control if necessary.

- Stakes and ties to be checked regularly during first year of growth. To be removed from the trees as soon as is practicable.
- Any trees which fail are to be replaced by new trees of the same species, following the planting methods and specifications outlined on Dwg No: 79347 / GH / 004.
- Trees to be checked annually for signs of disease and the need for pruning. A ‘soft touch’ approach is to be taken – so that intervention such as pruning and coppicing is only carried out when absolutely necessary for the future health of the trees.
- No tree management (such as pruning, coppicing etc) shall take place during peak bird nesting season, which runs from March to September. Where possible, maintenance work will be delayed until January or February.

4.0 Summary

This document sets-out the measures which will be put into place to ensure the proposed hedgerow and trees as shown on Dwg No: 79347 / GH / 004 will not only survive in the long-term but will also be positively managed for wildlife.

The measures set-out within Sections 2 and 3 of this Management Plan shall be adhered to for a period of 25 years from the date of completion of the planting works.