

From: Elspeth Ingleby
Sent: 12 May 2020 11:17
To: Helen Webster
Subject: RE: NYM/2020/0257/AGRP - Russell Hall Farm
Hi Helen

Yes all good thanks, how are you?

I would be satisfied with that provided that at least 6 native species are planted (if 6 different native species are not present in the existing hedge to be removed, then additional indigenous, native species should also be incorporated), the length planted is at least double that removed (to compensate for the time it will take for plants to reach maturity and the hedge to provide useful habitat) and our guidelines regarding planting and establishment (as attached) are followed.

Thanks

Elspeth



Hedge Establishment

The control of weeds during the first three years after planting is essential to ensure good growth and survival of hedge plants. Weeds, in particular rank grass, can choke the hedge depriving it of light, nutrients and moisture.

These guidelines aim to raise awareness of the methods available to control weeds and ensure good hedge establishment. The methods available are outlined below.

Mechanical Weeding

This is the least successful method and has little impact on grass competition for moisture. However, in some cases these methods are the most appropriate and are often beneficial when used in conjunction with other methods of weed control.

a) Hand Weeding

Weeding by hand is sometimes the only option on hedges close to open watercourses or in situations where other methods of weed control may damage the hedge plants. This can be done at any time of year but will be most beneficial from May onwards when the weeds begin to take a strong hold and compete with the hedge plants. Hand weeding may be required before other methods of control can be carried out if the weeds are very rank and the hedge plants are not clearly visible. This method can be very time consuming and may need to be repeated a number of times during the growing season.

b) Strimming

This method can be useful where the hedge plants are clearly visible or protected by guards. Strimming can be a relatively quick method of weed control but as with hand weeding it needs repeating to be effective. Care must be taken not to damage the growing hedge plants whilst strimming. Protective clothing should be worn by the operator.

Mulches

Natural mulches, such as straw, can be used to both retain moisture and suppress weed growth. Black polythene sheeting can also be used as a mat for continued weed control. Mulches are laid after planting and are especially effective for hedges planted on dry bank tops.

Chemicals

There are a range of legal requirements that apply to the use and storage of pesticides. All users are required to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, animals and plants, to safeguard the environment and in particular to avoid pollution of water. There are a range of chemical treatments available for use on hedges – the following are two widely used and relatively safe examples.

Chemical users should have a Certificate of Competence and be familiar with the relevant COSHH regulations. Protective clothing should be worn by the operator and label instructions must be read and strictly adhered to.

a) Propyzamide (e.g. Kerb granules)

Propyzamide is a residual soil acting weedkiller for the control of certain grasses and broadleaved weeds. It is not recommended during the first season after planting as this may lead to root damage. Propyzamide should not be used near open watercourses as it can be harmful to aquatic life. The action of the chemical will be reduced if the weather remains dry after use and ideal conditions are moist, cold soils but the chemical should not be applied on top of snow or in hard frosts. Application should be carried out between October and February, but ideally before the end of January. A certain amount of manual or mechanical weeding may be required before application since large amounts of organic litter can reduce the action of the chemical. Propyzamide granules are supplied in shakers and so application is simple and can be very accurate with practice. 1 shaker pack should treat approximately 100 m of hedge.

b) Glyphosate (eg. Roundup)

Glyphosate is a contact acting chemical and should be used with extreme caution on new hedges. Glyphosate is only effective when applied directly to actively growing weeds (April – October). It will also damage or even kill the hedge plants if they come into direct contact with the chemical so a spray shield is essential to protect from drift. Glyphosate is very effective for clearing the ground of weeds **prior to hedge planting** and for spot treatment of weeds around the hedge.

Consultation and Advice

For further general advice and information on the hedge establishment grant, contact the Conservation staff at the National Park Authority.

There are a range of legal requirements that apply to the use and storage of pesticides. All users are required to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of human beings, animals and plants, to safeguard the environment and in particular to avoid pollution of water.

Further advice on the use of pesticide can be sought from a BASIS (British Agrochemical Supply Industry Scheme) Advisor. The sections on chemical use within this advice note have been developed in consultation with a BASIS registered advisor.

June 2013



Hedge Planting

Care of plants

Ideally, hedge plants should be planted out as soon as possible after delivery and should be 'heeled in' if they are not to be planted immediately. This involves placing the roots in a pit or trench and covering with firmed soil to prevent them drying out, being frosted or being exposed to sunlight.

When planting it is important to keep the plants in a plastic bag to prevent drying out and exposure to light. It is essential that the roots are kept moist and dark as even a short period of exposure could damage the plants.

Hedge plants should be 40-60 cm transplants of British provenance (preferably local) and should comply to British Standard 3936.

Planting

Planting should be carried out between October and March. Autumn planting is preferable as it usually results in better establishment although there is an increased danger of damage by rabbits and hares during the winter months. No planting should be done in very wet, frosty or snowy conditions.

A suitable herbicide applied before planting (when vegetation is actively growing) will help to control weed growth. **Note: all herbicides must be applied in accordance with the label recommendations.**

The normal method is to plant new hedges without constructing a bank but when replanting an old hedgeline the planting should follow the top of the bank, if present. The species of trees and shrubs planted should match those in surviving sections of the hedge or in adjoining hedges. If possible the new hedge should follow the former hedge line where one existed and can be identified; otherwise it should be accord with the hedgerow pattern of the immediate area.

Planting can be carried out in 2 main ways;

- i) in a cultivated strip, approximately 60 cm (2 ft) wide by 25 cm (10 inches) deep, or
- ii) by cutting a slit in the ground and holding it open with a spade whilst the roots of the plant are carefully inserted and spread downwards.

The plants should be set in at the same depth as they were in the nursery and the soil must be firmed well in around the roots.

A double staggered row of plants produces a dense solid hedge with suitable stems for laying. This method uses 6 plants per metre (5 plants per yard), in two rows about 25 cm (10 inches) apart with plants at approximately 45 cm (18 inches) in each row.

Damaged or dead shoots should be removed at planting.

Trees

Hedgerow trees, such as oak and crab apple, increase the landscape and wildlife value of a hedge. Trees should be planted in tree shelters for protection and increased visibility so they can be easily avoided during hedge trimming. (See Guidelines for Tree Planting.)

Hedge Guards

Hedge guards are used to protect plants from voles and rabbits and may be used where rabbit netting is impractical.

It is important to establish the hedge guards firmly in the ground by the use of a stake or cane as they are otherwise liable to blow over in strong winds. Guards will need to be checked periodically to ensure that they have not fallen over.

Fencing

Protective fencing will be required to protect the new growth from livestock and, where appropriate, rabbits and hares. There should be a minimum of 1m left on either side of the planting (see Guidelines for Fencing).

Aftercare

For the first few years the hedgerow plants should be kept free of weeds by manual weeding or using suitable herbicides. Weed control and moisture conservation can also be achieved with the use of black polythene sheeting laid as a mat or mulching with bark chippings, straw or well rotted farmyard manure.

The importance of weeding cannot be over emphasised (see Guidelines for Hedge Establishment).

June 2013

From:
To: [Helen Webster](#)
Cc: [Planning](#)
Subject: NYM/2020/0257/AGRP - Russell Hall Farm, Stainsacre Lane
Date: 23 April 2020 14:14:39

Dear Helen,

The proposed extension to an existing agricultural building will necessitate the removal of at least part of an existing hedgerow which borders the current building on its north and western sides. I estimate that a minimum of 15m of existing hedgerow would need to be removed within the footprint of the new extension, whilst additional lengths may need to be removed to enable the new building to be erected. This hedgerow appears to be of longstanding, being present on the original 1851 maps and on each subsequent version as well as aerial imagery from the 1970s onwards.

Whilst my preference would be to avoid removal of this hedgerow if possible, compensatory planting of a suitable quantity of species rich native hedging as landscape screening for the building or to infill and improve the existing hedgerow network on the property could be considered if there is no satisfactory alternative siting of the required additional building capacity.

Many thanks

Elspeth

Elspeth Ingleby MA_{Cantab} ACIEEM

Ecologist

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