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PLANTING SPECIFICATION FOR NATIVE SPECIES HEDGEROW

Client – Mr & Mrs Higgs

Site address – Samara, Skipsea Lane, Ulrome, YO25 8TL

Project – Change of use of land to caravan site & caravan storage

PREPARATION

The strip of land along which the new hedge is to be established must be adequately prepared. The success or failure of a hedgerow can often be determined by the care taken when preparing the planting line. The following steps will be followed:-

- Tall grasses and weeds will be cut down to 75mm and removed from the site.
- The planting line will be treated with a suitable contact herbicide in a strip 600mm wide and 300mm deep. Ensure any residue of the herbicide is disposed of carefully.
- Fully cultivate the strip to a depth of 300mm.
- If the strip is poor in organic matter, well-rotted farmyard or horse manure should be incorporated at a rate of 40 l/m².

SPECIES

To match the hedgerows the following variety of native species should be used: -

Bay Laurel *Laurus Nobilis*

To help ensure a successful hedgerow, the following planting points should be adhered to:-

- Acquire the species listed above as well-rooted stock which have been transplanted at least once and are around 500-700mm tall.
- Ensure all bare-rooted stock is supplied in opaque plastic bags to keep the roots moist. If any plant has dried out roots then reject.
- Plant between November-March. In areas of high rabbit activity, avoid autumn months.

PLANTING

For planting to be successful, the following points should be followed:-

- Two rows of hedgerow plants should be established. These rows should be staggered and 450mm apart.
- The plants in each row should be spaced 250mm apart. This will give the equivalent of 9 plants per linear metre.
- Plants should be planted with the soil mark on the stem at ground level. The ground should be well firmed but not consolidated around the roots to leave the plant upright.

See fig 1

PROTECTION

Unless the area in which the hedgerow is to be established is known to be completely rabbit free, protection will be required. Examples of such protection include

- Spiral guards with cane supports
- Hedging tubes with cane supports
- Self-supporting hedging quills
- Rabbit fencing

Any guard will be at least 600mm tall and in most cases, brown spiral guards with cane support will offer sufficient protection. Tubes will shelter the plant and allow weed spraying right up to the plant. Rabbit fencing will be set 150mm below ground level.

To suppress weed growth around the hedge, the following methods will be considered:-

- Bark Chip Mulch
- Polythene Mulch
- Wulch
- Hedging Spats

All of these methods work by excluding light. They reduce the maintenance required, the competition for water and nutrients and improve the general growth rate of the hedgerow.

AFTERCARE

To ensure the long-term future of the hedgerow, it is essential that careful maintenance is administered for the first 3-4 growing seasons. This maintenance will include:-

- The treatment of any weed growth at the base of the hedge with a suitable contact herbicide in April and June. It is essential that no herbicide reaches the leaves of the hedging plants as they will be killed, leading to time-consuming replanting.
- Tubing and mulching should be maintained to ensure that weed growth is minimised. Any weeds can then be spot treated.

Further advice on the establishment and management of hedgerows in the East Riding of Yorkshire can be obtained from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council (01482) 393723.

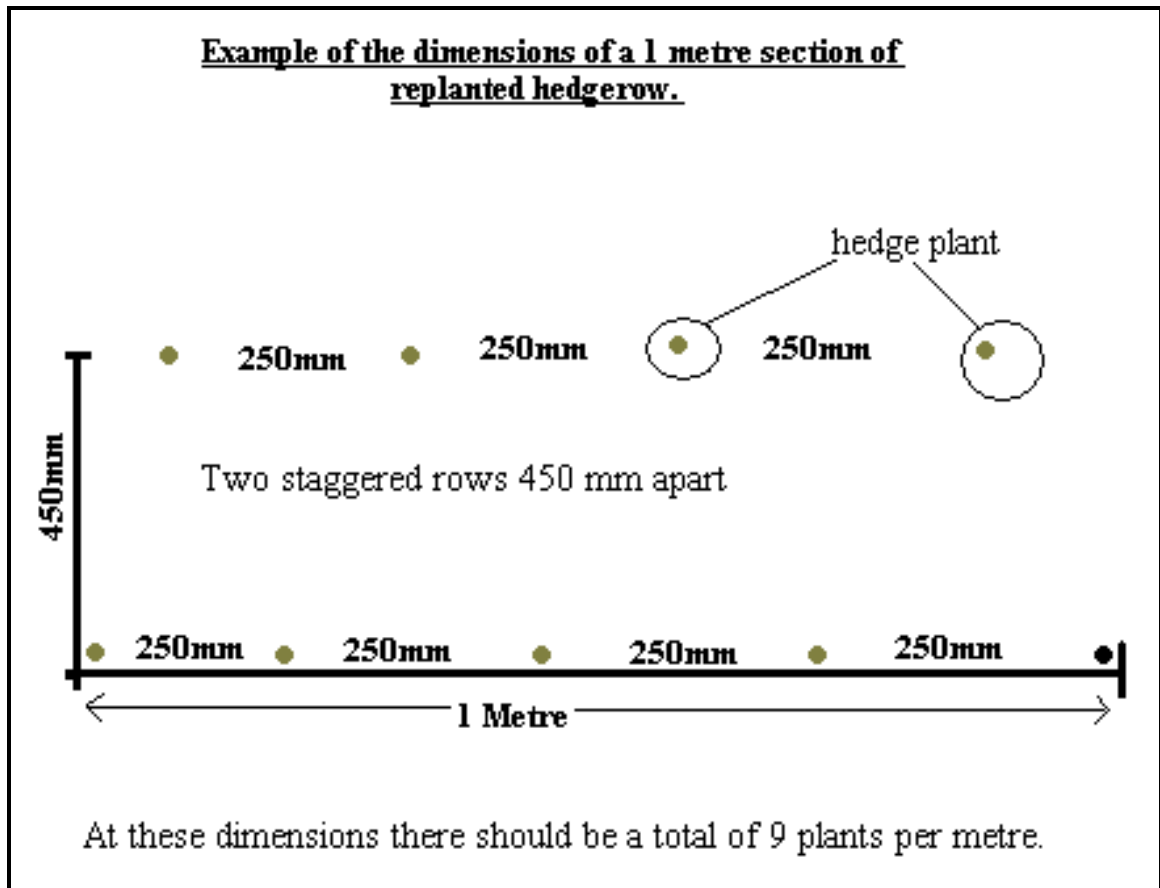


Fig.1.