

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 that you work. While you may work predominately with one style you must also be aware of other regional styles.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. select and use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work
3. identify the main purpose and species of the hedge
4. determine the style in which the hedge laying will take place, taking account of regional variances
5. measure the length of the hedge to be laid and estimate the materials required
6. check for the presence of utility cables and fencing
7. identify and agree which hedgerow trees are to be retained, and if any special protection measures exist
8. estimate the number of plants required to restock the gaps
9. identify the direction in which the hedge will be laid and where laying will commence
10. select, prepare, maintain and store tools that are appropriate for the work
11. prepare the hedge for laying
12. remove dead wood and other unwanted materials
13. select, cut and lay pleachers at the correct angle, maintaining viable hinges and reducing stumps appropriately
14. fill gaps as appropriate
15. sharpen and install stakes at determined spacing, bind the hedge and trim off the stakes, in accordance with the style of hedging
16. remove all waste and surplus materials and dispose of them as specified
17. carry out work in a way that minimises environmental damage
18. 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:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. the most appropriate time of year to carry out hedge laying, depending on the local climate and the effect of frost on the pleachers
5. the effect of your work on wildlife habitats such as during the bird-nesting season
6. the reasons for laying hedges
7. who to contact regarding the presence of utility cables
8. the different styles of hedge laying and regional variances
9. the different tools and methods of undertaking hedge laying
10. the appropriate length and diameter of stems to use as pleachers
11. the types and sources of binders and stakes available
12. hedgerow species and their characteristics
13. the correct methods of disposing of surplus materials and/or waste
14. the potential impact of your work on the environment and how this can be minimised
15. your responsibilities under relevant 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
- maintaining the landscape

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