

PLANTING SPECIFICATION

Replacement Boundary Hedge Screen

Site: The Briars, Business Park, Waterloooville

Proposal: Removal of existing boundary hedge to facilitate additional parking and provision of a replacement hedge screen

Purpose: Planning Application Supporting Document

1. Introduction

This planting specification has been prepared to accompany the planning application for the proposed alterations to the site at The Briars, Waterloooville.

The proposal involves the removal of an existing hedge along the site boundary to enable the provision of additional parking spaces. The existing hedge will be replaced with a new, appropriately designed hedge screen to maintain and enhance the visual separation between the business park and the adjoining boundary.

The replacement planting will provide a continuous green boundary, soften views of the proposed parking area and provide an appropriate level of screening as the hedge establishes and matures.

2. Extent of Replacement Planting

A continuous replacement hedge shall be planted along the boundary shown on the proposed landscape/planting plan.

The replacement hedge shall, as far as practicable, provide an equivalent or greater length of boundary planting to that removed.

Where the available space permits, the hedge shall be positioned to allow sufficient room for establishment and future maintenance whilst avoiding obstruction of parking spaces, pedestrian routes, visibility splays or access arrangements.

The final planting line shall be agreed with the site layout and shall be located wholly within the application site.

3. Proposed Hedge Mix

The hedge shall comprise a predominantly native and wildlife-friendly species mix appropriate to the local landscape character and the conditions of a commercial/business park environment.

The proposed mix shall comprise:

- *Crataegus monogyna* – Hawthorn – 30%
- *Corylus avellana* – Hazel – 20%
- *Acer campestre* – Field Maple – 20%
- *Carpinus betulus* – Hornbeam – 15%
- *Ilex aquifolium* – Holly – 10%
- *Euonymus europaeus* – Spindle – 5%

4. Planting Density and Size

The hedge shall be planted as a double staggered row where sufficient width is available.

Plants shall generally be:

- Size: 60–90cm high, bare-root transplants or suitable cell-grown plants
- Planting density: approximately 5 plants per linear metre
- Rows: approximately 300–400mm apart
- Spacing: approximately 400mm between plants within each row
- Plants shall be arranged in a staggered formation to achieve a continuous hedge as the planting establishes.
- Where site constraints prevent a double row, a single row shall be planted at approximately 4–5 plants per linear metre.
- Holly may be supplied as container-grown stock where appropriate.
- All plant material shall be healthy, vigorous and free from pests, diseases and physical damage.

5. Ground Preparation

Prior to planting, the planting strip shall be cleared of rubble, excessive vegetation, perennial weeds and other unsuitable material.

The ground shall be cultivated to a minimum depth of approximately 300mm and improved where necessary with well-rotted organic matter or suitable planting compost.

Compacted areas shall be loosened before planting. Soil shall be brought to a suitable tilth and free from large stones and construction debris.

Planting shall not take place when the ground is waterlogged, frozen or excessively dry.

6. Planting

Planting shall preferably take place during the dormant season, normally between November and March, subject to suitable ground and weather conditions.

Each plant shall be planted into a hole sufficiently large to accommodate the root system without bending or cramping the roots.

Plants shall be planted at the same depth as previously grown, with the root collar at approximately existing ground level.

The soil shall be carefully backfilled around the roots and firmed sufficiently to eliminate air pockets.

Following planting, all plants shall be thoroughly watered.

7. Mulching

A continuous mulch shall be applied along the planting strip following planting.

Mulch shall comprise suitable well-rotted organic mulch or an approved peat-free alternative, applied to a depth of approximately 75mm.

Mulch shall be kept clear of the immediate stem of each plant to avoid encouraging rot or other stem-related problems.

The planting strip shall be kept substantially free of competing weeds during the establishment period.

8. Protection

Where there is a risk of damage from vehicles, pedestrian movements or other site activities, suitable temporary protection shall be installed.

Plants shall be protected from accidental vehicle damage, particularly where the hedge is adjacent to parking bays or vehicle manoeuvring areas.

Protection shall be maintained until the hedge is sufficiently established to withstand normal site activity.

9. Maintenance and Establishment

The replacement hedge shall be subject to a minimum five-year establishment and maintenance period.

During this period:

- The hedge shall be inspected regularly.
- Dead, diseased or damaged plants shall be removed and replaced.
- Failed plants shall be replaced during the next appropriate planting season with matching species and sizes.
- The planting strip shall be kept substantially free of invasive and competing weeds.
- Mulch shall be topped up where necessary.
- Plants shall be watered during periods of prolonged dry weather, particularly during the first two growing seasons.
- The hedge shall be managed to encourage a dense, bushy habit from ground level.
- Any replacement plants shall be maintained until successfully established.

10. Hedge Management

The hedge shall be allowed to establish naturally during the initial establishment period.

Once established, the hedge shall be maintained as a dense boundary screen, generally at a height appropriate to the surrounding site and boundary conditions.

Pruning shall be undertaken outside the main bird nesting season wherever reasonably practicable. If vegetation is to be cut during the nesting season, it shall first be checked for active nests and nesting birds.

Management shall seek to retain a continuous green screen and avoid excessive hard cutting that could result in gaps or significant loss of screening value.

11. Relationship to Parking Provision

The replacement hedge has been designed to provide an effective visual buffer between the additional parking provision and the site boundary.

The planting will soften views of parked vehicles and associated hardstanding and will assist in integrating the proposed parking area into the existing landscape setting.

The hedge shall not obstruct required visibility splays, pedestrian access, lighting, drainage infrastructure or vehicle movements.

Where appropriate, a modest offset between the parking bays and hedge planting shall be retained to allow for vehicle overhang, maintenance and hedge growth.

12. Implementation

The replacement hedge shall be planted following completion of the relevant construction and parking works and during the next available planting season.

Where practicable, planting should be undertaken at the earliest suitable opportunity to commence establishment of the replacement screen.

The completed planting shall be inspected following installation to confirm compliance with this specification and any plants that have failed to establish shall be replaced.

13. Summary

The proposed replacement hedge will provide a suitable and sustainable boundary treatment following removal of the existing hedge to accommodate additional parking.

The planting will comprise a diverse native hedge mix, planted at an appropriate density and maintained for a minimum five-year establishment period. The completed hedge will provide a continuous green screen, soften the visual impact of the additional parking and provide enhanced biodiversity value.

The replacement planting shall be implemented in accordance with this specification and the approved site plan.