

This note is one of a series aimed to improve design standards and assist applicants submitting proposals for planning applications. It cannot cover all situations.

Native species hedgerows and traditional 'Devon' hedgebanks are important landscape features and wildlife habitats and are often of historic value, marking ancient field or parish boundaries.

Development should **conserve and enhance** the hedgerow network, retaining and enhancing existing features wherever possible, particularly hedgerows which qualify as 'Important' under the Hedgerow Regulations definition. Replacements are required where losses occur. Translocation of existing hedges may be an option in appropriate situations.

Protection of existing hedgerows is needed from built development, including fences & hardstandings, to protect the root system from damage. All excavation and construction should be kept a minimum of 4 metres from the centre of existing hedges (where no trees are involved). Where existing hedgerow trees are involved, BS5837 gives recommended distances from trees. Major applications will require wider hedgerow & tree buffers, particularly where development occurs on both sides of a hedgerow. Where bats occur wider buffers may be needed and advice should be sought.

New native hedgerows and banks are often required as appropriate mitigation for landscape impacts and for species and habitat mitigation and compensation. Restoration of existing degraded or 'gappy' hedgerows may also be required. Where possible new hedges should be sited on the line of an old boundary. They should connect with existing hedgerows and trees and not be stand-alone features. Allow adequate space from built elements, and avoid power/phone lines & underground services/drains.



Recommended native hedgerow specification

Hedging plants should be supplied as 'whips' or 'transplants' 20-40cm or 40-60cm tall and bare-rooted, except evergreens which should be container grown. For hedgerow trees use 60-90cm or 90-120cm whips or 'feathered' trees, marked to ensure they are not trimmed as part of the hedge.

- Either notch plant in to weed free ground or in to a 1m wide strip cultivated to a depth of approx. 400mm.
- Plants must be kept covered, with roots moist, at all times before planting, and should be watered in.
- Plant in a double staggered row approx. 300mm between plants, 400mm between rows (5-6 plants per linear metre). Planting season Oct-March, although Dec-Feb is preferred.
- Protect with stock, deer and/or rabbit fencing or with guards as appropriate. Mulch with organic matter or plastic to suppress weeds and retain moisture.
- **A 5 year Establishment Maintenance** period is required. To include watering, weeding, pruning, mulching, and fencing/guards as appropriate. Any plant which fails to successfully establish during this period should be replaced.
- Recommended **long term management** is to trim once every 2-3 years in Oct-Feb, maintaining a height of 1.5-2m. Management by laying on a 10-15 year cycle may be appropriate. Note: Major applications will require detailed maintenance & management schedules.

Recommended Typical Species Mix		
English Name	Species	%
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	25
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	25
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	20
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	10
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	5
Additional Species		10
e.g. Elder, Dog Rose, Guelder Rose, Spindle, Dogwood, Wayfaring Tree, Broom, Gorse, Alder Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Traveller's Joy		
Standard Trees		5
e.g. English/Sessile Oak, Ash, Field Maple, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Rowan, Alder, Small-leaved Lime		
*Note: Species & % may vary according to soil type & pH, exposure, requirements e.g. evergreen screening. Plant hedgerow shrubs in species blocks rather than randomly. Standard trees are best in groups or randomly rather than a formal line. Some large growing trees such as Oak should be included.		

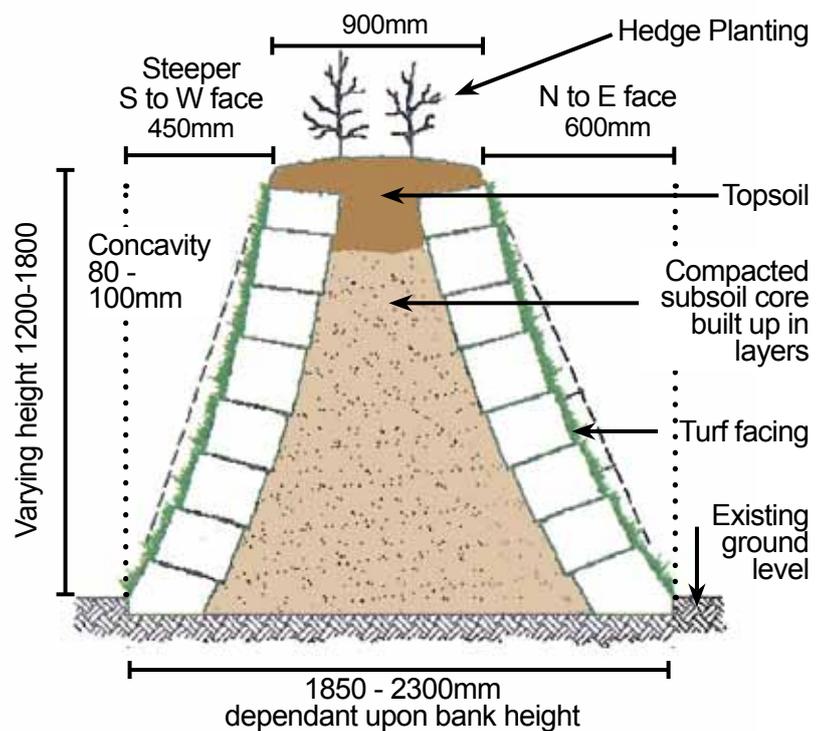


Hedge laying in action

'Devon' Hedgebanks

Within Teignbridge 'Devon' Hedgebanks are typically turf & herb covered earth banks topped with a native species hedgerow. Freestanding banks are typically 1.2-1.5m tall. Retaining banks can be of varying heights. Occasionally a dry stone base is used in retaining banks and a part stone construction is used in limestone areas.

Banks should be built up in layers of subsoil from the base, with topsoil at the top 3-400mm. Each layer should be lightly compacted. The faces should have an inward slope or batter and be slightly concave (see Fig.1). Turves should be laid grass face outward in level, stretcher-bond courses, lightly compacted and pinned with metal tie rods if necessary.



Further information:

Teignbridge District Council 'Planting a Traditional Devon Hedge' www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning
Teignbridge District Council SPD 'Trees & Development' www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning
BS5837:2005 Trees in relation to construction www.teignbridge.gov.uk/planning
The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 www.legislation.gov.uk
Natural England Technical Information Note TIN039 'Devon field boundaries' www.naturalengland.gov.uk

Contacts: Landscape & Biodiversity Officers, Teignbridge District Council 01626 215747
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If you need this document in another language, print size or colour, braille, BSL, as an e-mail attachment, MP3 file or disc - phone 01626 215818 or e-mail info@teignbridge.gov.uk

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