

Upper Aire Reverse Auction Specification

New Hedgerows

Why?

Hedgerows provide the following NFM benefits:

- Reduced volume of water reaching waterways through interception of rainfall.
- Promotes water filtration and uptake of water through roots.
- Increased evapotranspiration removes water from the soil faster compared to crops during high rainfall.
- Slows surface water runoff by providing a physical barrier across fields.



Planted hedge. ©Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Additional benefits include:

- Roots bind soil to reduce erosion from wind.
- Improves water quality by trapping sediments and diffuse pollution from entering waterways.
- Planting trees within hedgerows can sequester carbon, help with climate regulation and improve canopy cover across the Aire catchment from its current level of 6%.

Specifics for intervention:

What	Hedgerows planted with native species along field edges or waterways.
When	Any time between November and March.
How	<p>A two staggered row hedge should be planted to the specification of Diagram 1. Before whips are planted a small area of turf should be removed when planting each plant (screefing) with follow up weed control to reduce vegetation competition with the whips.</p> <p>Hedging should be planted in blocks of at least 1m.</p> <p>Recommendations of species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 75% of hedge can be thorns – for example blackthorn and hawthorn. • A mix of shrub species should be used to provide habitat for a range of wildlife – for example hazel, guelder rose, rowan and holly. • Every 10m a tree could be planted to provide shade and shelter to livestock and wildlife in future – for example oak, lime, aspen or alder. <p>Guards must be used for all whips – spiral guards (0.75m tall) can be used for shrubs, however 1.2m guards should be used for any trees planted. Alternatively, the new hedge could be rabbit netted.</p> <p>Hedgerows require fencing from livestock to ensure establishment – this must be at least 1.2m away from the centre of the hedge.</p>
Must knows	<p>Trees cannot be felled, or hedgerows trimmed between 1st March and 1st September without being surveyed to ensure no species are living in them.</p> <p>New hedgerows must be properly fenced to prevent livestock access. Please account for fencing that encloses the entire hedgerow when considering your bid. For instances where walls or fencing currently exist and would act to protect the proposed new hedgerow from one side, single fencing only may be required. You do not need to make a separate bid for fencing.</p>

Benefits for your farm:

- By reducing surface water runoff, soil and fertilisers are retained within fields.
- Hedgerows protect livestock by providing a buffer against strong winds.
- Provide habitat for species beneficial to crops – i.e. pollinators and predators of pest species and corridors to allow movement of beneficial species between fields.
- Shrubs and trees provide shelter for livestock during poor weather. Studies have found lower lamb mortality on sites with protective hedgerows¹ and a 21% increase in the live weight of sheep².
- Hedgerows prevent contact between animals of neighbouring land parcels, which reduces the spread of disease.
- Increased infiltration reduces standing water, which may benefit the health of livestock.

Ongoing maintenance requirements – High

- All other vegetation (including grass, bramble, and nettles) should be cleared from around the hedge during the initial three to four years to maximise establishment.
- The hedge must be trimmed back to 45-60cm high to encourage bushy growth during the first two years.
- Alternative to repeatedly trimming hedge is to prepare hedge for laying, which can be done by trimming the sides of the hedge. The hedge will then need to be laid every 8-15 years to continue providing NFM benefits and habitat for wildlife.

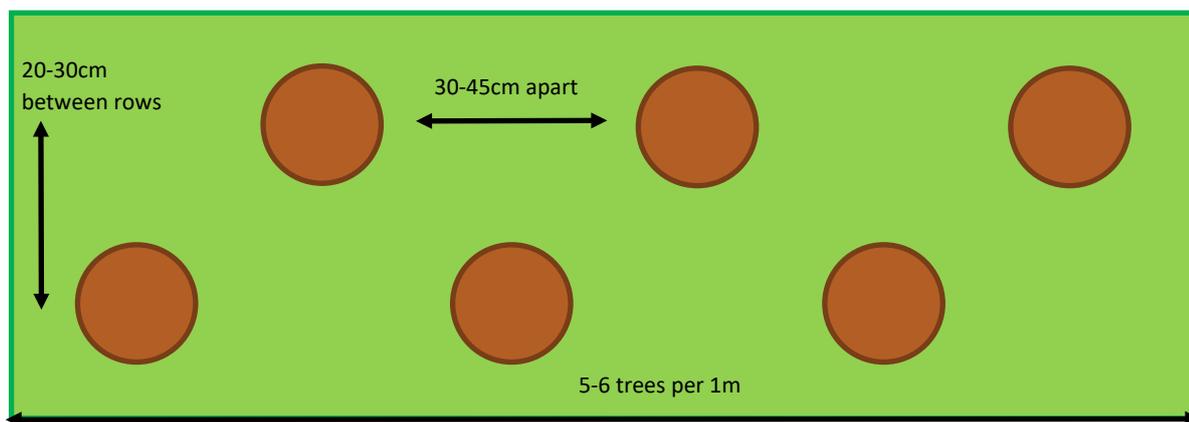


Diagram 2: two staggered row hedge planting recommendation.

Please note: All works must be completed by 1st March 2023.

If you have any questions or require any more information please contact suzie.knight@ywt.org.uk