

HEDGE MAINTENANCE

General

The following specification is intended to provide strong healthy and stable hedges, cleanly cut and of an approved shape and size.

All arisings shall be disposed of at the Contractor's tip or recycling facility.

Tenderers are required to set out in detail their approach to the maintenance of Hedges in their Method Statement entitled Service Delivery. The Contractor shall trim and prune all hedges to encourage a stable hedge. The width at the top of the hedge shall be slightly less than at the base. All woody weeds shall be removed and stumps killed as directed by the Supervising Officer. Where hedges obstruct road paths or windows, the Contractor will cut back the nuisance growth at each site maintenance visit.

The Contractor shall cause minimum disturbance to nesting birds and wildlife in compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1985

The Contractor shall make all cuts cleanly and remove any ragged edges using a sharp blade except where flails are used. Unless otherwise agreed with the Supervising Officer, each hedge shall be the same size at the end of the Contract as they were at the beginning.

The Contractor shall cut back the current growth to the point of the previous cut, and the hedge shall be trimmed, pruned back to the same height, width and general shape as that which existed at the completion of the last trim, but shall not exceed the height specified unless instructed by the Supervising Officer. All hedges shall be cut both sides and top except hedges that abut private land which shall be cut on one side and top. The Contractor shall remove all suckers, self - set trees or shrubs, brambles and ivy which are not part of the hedge, to ground level and treat with stump killer on instruction from the Supervising Officer.

The Contractor shall leave grass edges adjacent to hedges neat, vertical, tidy and weed free at the time of cutting. The Contractor shall ensure sight lines remain unobstructed including encroachment onto pathways, windows and handrails.

The Contractor shall ensure that at the bases are weed free after each visit to hedges.

The Contractor's attention is drawn to the Operations Table in Appendix 1 regarding the timing of hedge works.