



## Wortley Catchment NatureBid Specification New Hedgerows – Single Fence

### Why?

Hedgerows provide the following NFM benefits:

- Reduces volume of water reaching waterways through interception of rainfall.
- Promotes water infiltration 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 help improve canopy cover across the Wortley catchment

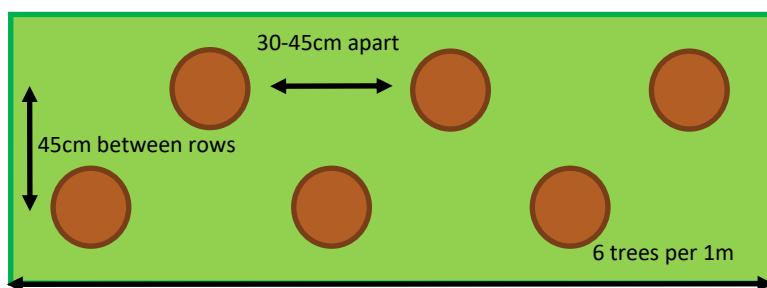
Benefits for your farm:

- By reducing surface water runoff, soil and fertilisers are retained within fields.
- Hedgerows protect crops 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.
- 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.

### Specifics for intervention:

What	Hedgerows planted of native species, exact species dependent on site. Planted across fields or on field boundaries perpendicular to overland flow pathways.
Where – location	Bids for these measures are considered for anywhere in the Wortley Catchment
Where – site selection	New hedges should be planted across slopes to interrupt surface water runoff, and on slopes with steeper gradients where buffer strips alone do not hold back surface runoff. They can be planted perpendicular to rivers across areas of floodplain to improve water uptake. If hedgerow is to be planted on a bank, whips should be planted off the bank crest for greater water conservation and improved likelihood of establishment. Hedgerows can also be restored along historic field boundaries or where there has been fragmentation of hedges, and ideally should be linked to existing hedgerows or other habitat to create wildlife corridors.

When	Any time between November and March.
How	<p>A two staggered row hedge should be planted to the specification of <b>Diagram 1</b>. 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"> <li>Up to 75% of hedge can be thorns – for example blackthorn and hawthorn.</li> <li>A mix of shrub species should be used to provide habitat for a range of wildlife – for example hazel, guelder rose, rowan and holly.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <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. Hedgerows require fencing from livestock to ensure establishment – this should be at least 1.2m away from the centre of the hedge. Hedgerows require fencing from livestock to ensure establishment – this should be at least 1.2m away from the centre of the hedge, and rabbit netting may be required if this is a problem on sites.</p>
Must knows	<p>Hedgerows and buffer strips work well together to maximise NFM benefits.</p> <p>Trees cannot be felled, or hedgerows trimmed between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> September without surveyed to ensure no species are living in them.</p> <p>New hedgerows must be properly fenced to stop livestock access. <b>Please account for fencing that encloses the entire hedgerow when considering your bid.</b> 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. <b>You do not need to make a separate bid for fencing.</b></p>



*Diagram 1: two staggered row hedge planting recommendation.*

### 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.

**Please note: Interventions must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026.**

*If you have any questions or require any more information please contact  
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