



## South of England Style Factsheet

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The objective is to create a stock proof hedge with brush at both sides extending from the top of the hedge to ground level.

**Pleachers** are laid down the centre of the hedge and are to be of sufficient cross section to allow sap growth. Sufficient 'heel' is left to allow ground level growth.

**Stakes** are placed two to the yard along the centre of the hedge and finished to protrude four inches above the top of the binders. Stakes are to be driven in as grown, i.e. smallest diameter uppermost.

**Binders** start from under two previous binders so as to create a single twist effect. The top of the binders will be four feet from ground level.

**Dead Wood** is limited to that required to block a gap which would otherwise not be stock proof.

**Frith** is cleared away from the newly laid hedge as directed.

Adopted 16 November 2000.



## GENERAL FEATURES

- ✓ Stockproof
- ✓ Double brushed
- ✓ Symmetrical
- ✓ Laid uphill
- ✓ Dense at base
- ✓ Staked centrally
- ✓ Stakes vertical
- ✓ Stakes evenly spaced (18")
- ✓ Bound in SoE style (3 or 4 binders)
- ✓ Normally 4 feet high (on the uphill side if on a slope) 3 to 4 feet wide depending on material available.
- ✓ Trimmed to shape

## SELECTION OF STEMS

- ✓ Problem species removed, e.g. Elder, bramble, honeysuckle, dog rose.
- ✓ Most stems laid
- ✓ Deadwood only to fill unavoidable gaps

## PLEACHING

- ✓ Adequate length of pleaching cut
- ✓ Face of pleaching cut smooth
- ✓ Sufficient sapwood in hinge
- ✓ No splitting back
- ✓ Root laying acceptable where appropriate

## HEELS

- ✓ Heel not split
- ✓ Heel trimmed close to ground (1-3" dependent on size)
- ✓ Heel trimmed at an angle 30 45 degrees

## BUILD

- ✓ Hedge sufficiently full throughout
- ✓ Angle of main stems consistent
- ✓ Pleacher position ensures retention by stakes
- ✓ Pleachers interlocked / overlapped to ensure flow of pleacher line and to secure each other
- ✓ Side branches pleached into line as necessary
- ✓ Adequate material in base and protecting heels from grazing livestock
- ✓ Compressed by binders
- ✓ Build even and consistent throughout length
- ✓ Dead wood only when necessary
- ✓ No gap at end of hedge, infill by back laying or using dead wood

## STAKES

- ✓ Straight or to follow the centre of the hedge.
- ✓ Vertical / upright when viewed from the side or down the hedge.
- ✓ Evenly spaced (18")
- ✓ Base in centre of hedge
- ✓ All pleachers held secure
- ✓ Thick end downwards
- ✓ Firmly driven and secure
- ✓ Best use of available stakes

## BINDERS AND STAKE TOPS

- ✓ Start at beginning of cant (3 or 4 binders)
- ✓ Start neat and secure
- ✓ One new binder per stake
- ✓ Tail inserted under top two
- ✓ Tails neat and short (trimmed if necessary)
- ✓ The Roll effect of the binders to preferably face the public side of the hedge
- ✓ Correctly woven
- ✓ Firm and secure
- ✓ Neat and even throughout
- ✓ Compresses pleacher tops
- ✓ Smooth top line following general ground contours
- ✓ Binder line follows hedge line (curves not kinks)
- ✓ Best use of available binders
- ✓ First and last stake secure (no brightly coloured baler twine)
- ✓ Tops of binders normally at least 4 feet from base of stake
- ✓ Tops of stakes a 'fist' (4 to 6 inches) above binders
- ✓ Height of tops even throughout length
- ✓ Stake tops trimmed at an angle (in line with hedge)
- ✓ Stake tops show as pleachers
- ✓ Stake tops neatly trimmed (counter-cut to remove/prevent frayed top)

## TRIMMING

- ✓ Top trimmed horizontal to bottom of binders
- ✓ Untidy material trimmed off sides vertically
- ✓ No untidy twigs at top corners

## MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ Bottom of hedge cleared out
- ✓ Stake tops and large chips away from hedge
- ✓ Frith and waste left well away from hedge