Arboricultural Report

A planting plan for a planned development between Number 49 and Number 49A The Hyde, Purton, Swindon

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Contents

Page

3 Section 1 -Instruction and limitations
3 Section 2 -Site description
4 Section3 -Overview of the planting plan
5-7 Section 4 - Implementation of the planting plan

1.0 Instruction and limitations

1.1 I am instructed by Stephen Kingshott of Stephen Kingshott Building Consultancy LTD to visit this site and make a plan for planting trees, hedges and shrubs as shown in the Block Plan -drawing number 0024/20/A, drawn by Stephen Kingshott.

1.2 I have no knowledge of any service runs or planned service runs on the site except for the overhead electrical cables. It may be necessary to adjust these plans if they clash with service runs.

1.3 I have made no investigation of the soil. The soil does not appear from the surface to be damaged or contaminated. Soil conditions on development sites can change very rapidly. For this planting plan to be successful, soil will need to be protected as much as possible- both for the health of existing trees and hedges on neighbouring land and for the health of future trees and shrubs that are to to be planted. If compaction or contamination does occur in areas where planting is planned, it will be necessary to de-compact or replace the damaged soil for this planting plan to be successful.

1.4 Proper aftercare of young trees and shrubs is often essential to their future success.

2.0 Site Description

2.1 This is a plot of gently sloping pasture land between two existing houses. The soil does not appear to have been greatly disturbed by the building of these neighbouring houses. The soil appears -from a soil map and from examination of bare ground near the roadside- to be a lighter lime containing soil. This land is, however, very close to the boundary of an area of heavier clayey and Limy soil. It is possible that the soil on this plot may share characteristics of both soil types.

2.2 There is no significant woody vegetation on the plot itself except for a few hedge plants and saplings that have grown on the plot side of fence within the hedge on the Eastern boundary.

2.3 The plot is bordered on its East and West sides by mature hedges.

2.4 The Western hedge is maintained at a height of approximately 3 metres and largely covers the side of number 49A to the gutter line. This is a strong hedge, mostly composed of Hawthorn, with some other species at the road end. These species are: Wild plum, Plum, Lilac, Cotoneaster and Viburnum. There is a slight weakness in this side of the hedge at the road end.

2.5 The Eastern hedge is mostly composed of a variety of local wild tree species with the occasional cultivated species. These species include: Ash, Haze, Sycamore, Hawthorn, Apple and Blackthorn. At the side of number 49 this hedge is kept to a height of approximately 1.5 metres -possibly to give light and a view. Closer to the road this hedge has grown very tall and has mingled with the trees and shrubs of number 49’s garden. The base of the hedge is very thin here because of lack of light.

3.0 Overview of the planting plan

3.1 Firstly, future problems that might be caused by trees and shrubs are to be avoided. This will be achieved by cutting back and removing some existing vegetation and by planting only species that are suitable to their setting.

3.2 Existing hedges are to be bolstered where needed using the appropriate native species.

3.3 A new hedge will be planted along the land's Northern (rear) boundary using appropriate native species.

3.4 Two trees will be planted in the northern corners of the land.

3.5 Small trees and shrubs will be planted in the Southern corners of the property, to enhance and partly screen the new dwelling, while not clashing with the overhead electricity cables.

3.6 The number and species of the planned new plantings can be seen on the site plan diagram.Planting specifications and method are described below in the text of this report.

4.0 Implementation of the planting plan

4.1 Tree works

There are young two Sycamores that would grow to be a problem. One of these is growing in the land of the plot right against the hedge. The other is growing from next door, through the wire boundary fence and its trunk leans out over the land of the plot. Both of these young trees should be removed. Sycamore grows to be a very large tree that drops considerable quantities of Honeydew in summer and leaves in Autumn. This will not be an appropriate tree for a forecourt area in front of a house.

I recommend approaching the owners of 49A with tact aiming to negotiate the removal of the whole of the tree that overhangs from their land and the treatment of the stump. If this is impossible, the trunk should be cut off at the point where it first entirely overhangs the plot and the resulting regrowth should be trimmed annually with the hedge.

The remaining neighbouring vegetation should all be cut back to the boundary. This will help the new plantings to bolster the hedge to get sufficient light underneath the taller neighbouring trees.

It will be simplest to carry out all these works before the building project starts when there is plenty of space to work in but after the creation of an access from the road.



Sycamores and other trees overhanging the western boundary that should be removed if they stand on the plot or cut back to the boundary where they stand on neighbouring land

4.2 Hedge planting

4.2.1 Hedge composition

Bare root whips 1200mm height are to be planted during the dormant season.
These whips should be from locally found native species such as Hazel, Hawthorn field Maple, Dog Rose and Blackthorn.

In areas where the hedge is to be bolstered -where there is shade cast by larger trees on neighbouring land- Holly should also be added to the mix because it is more tolerant of shady conditions.

Where a new hedge is to be created to the rear of the property, guelder roseand crab apple can be added to the mixture of planting. This will give more flowers and fruit to the hedgefor wildlife.

4.2.2 Hedge planting density

Where the hedge is to be bolstered, a density of 3 new plants to a metre will be suitable, this can be decreased according to need -where there are clearly less than 3 gaps per metre for new plants, an appropriate number of plants should be used.

Where a new hedge is being created form scratch, double rows should be planted -giving a zig zag pattern of hedge trees, with a planting density of 5 plants per meter spread between the rows; i.e. 3 in one row, 2 in the other.

4.2.3 Hedge planting process

The procedure for hedge planting is as follows;

At the end of the summer, grass growing where new hedge plants are to be planted should be killed with a systemic weedkiller such as Glyphosate. Grass is a surprisingly successful competitor with young trees and should be eliminated before the trees are planted.

Dormant whips should be planted through weed resistant membrane that has been pegged to the ground. The new plantings should be mulched with wood chip to a depth of 5 to 10 centimetres and protected with canes and rabbit guards. If deer are found to be a threat, full 1.25 metre high tree guards will need to be used or the whole plot will need to be fenced off to at least 1.5 metres height to keep deer out.

4.3 Tree and shrub planting

4.3.1 Tree and shrub specifications.

Individual trees are to be of "standard" size -8 to 10 centimetres girth at 1 metre height with a single clear stem.

Standard size will not be achievable with the Japanese Maples due to their form. Here pot grown specimens of good size are to be chosen. A minimum pot size will be 20 litres to ensure strong young trees.

Shrubs of 5 litre pot size should be used.

4.3.2 Tree planting procedure

In the season prior to planting, grass is to be killed using systemic herbicide.

New trees and shrubs are to be planted in the dormant season, to the same depth that they were planted in the nursery. They should be staked and mulched with wood chip to a depth of 5 to 10 centimetres. If deer are found to be a threat, tree guards should be used.

4.4 Aftercare of new hedges, trees and shrubs

Grass and competing vegetation should be kept back by the careful use of cutting tools. The stems of new plantings must not be damaged by strimmers.

In dry conditions new planting will need watering daily for at least the first year following planting, possible the first two years where there is heavy competition for water from larger adjacent trees. It may be worth investing in an automated watering system for the new plantings or burying perforated hose pipes fitted with quick fit connectors next to the roots of new plantings.

Stakes should be removed after 2 years of successful growth.

Any losses should be made up in the next planting season.



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