

Report of the planting of the new hedges in November / December 2001

The planting was completed on Sunday 9th Dec. 2001.

The main planting was along the boundary between the first field and Gore's field. It runs from the corner of the Old Vicarage beech hedge to the corner of Gore's wood – a length of 60m. It was planted as a **mixed hedge** using species characteristic of the local mixed hedges roughly in the same proportions. The various species was planted in groups of about 5 to aid pollination and to reduce competition from more vigorous species. There are some larger groups of hawthorn and black thorn. In all about 300 whips (small hedge plants) of 30 – 45 cm were planted in a double row at a rate of 5 plants per metre. They were planted through a permeable membrane in order to reduce the need for weeding in the next few years. Rabbit guards with canes were used to protect them from being eaten or gnawed by rabbits and possibly other creatures.

Two young trees were included in the hedge-line above the gate:

1. **an oak** about 10 years old grown from a local acorn by Rachel Seyler
2. **a wild service** about 4 years old self sown from a tree originally of north Gloucestershire stock.

The species planted were:

English name	Latin name	Number planted
Common hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	90
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	30
Midland hawthorn	<i>Crataegus oxycantha</i>	30
Hazel	<i>Coryllus avellana</i>	30
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	30
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	30
Wild privet	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	30
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	10
Guelder rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	10
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	10

This hedge will need protection from sheep if we ever get any to graze this part of the field. A permanent post and stock wire fence is listed in the management plan but a temporary electric one may be adequate.

The second hedge was planted behind the millennium seat to join the two existing hedges – a length of about 20m. Two lines of stock wire were already in place and 100 whips (70 blackthorn and 30 hawthorn) were planted to grow into a prickly barrier to prevent trespass onto the next door field.

All the plants were bought from Elmcroft Tree Nursery, Bradfords Lane, Newent Gloc. which specialises in trees and shrubs from local (Worcs. Glos. Hereford) seed. The plants are rootrainer grown and a special tool was purchased to take out the right sized hole – this was very successful and speeded up the job immensely.

The hedge by the road which was laid a couple of years ago will need trimming this winter.