

TECHNICAL NOTE FOR WORKING ON ROADSIDE HEDGES IN CORNWALL

Working on a roadside hedge involves other people using the road. The government has issued the key question:-

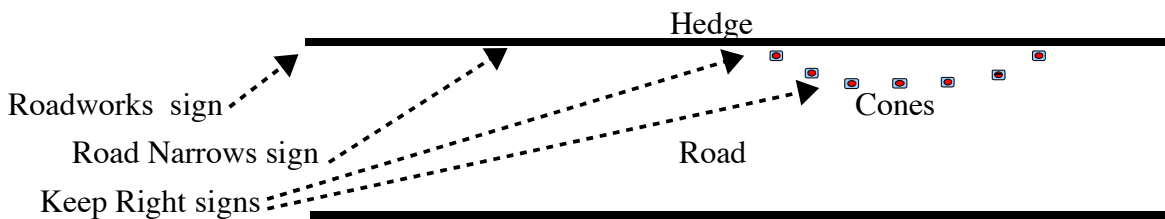
“Will someone coming along the road or foot-way from any direction understand exactly what is happening and what is expected of them?”

Usually the roadside hedge belongs to the adjoining landowner and he has the responsibility, so far as is reasonably practicable, of making sure that the hedge does not obstruct the road. The Safety at Street Works and Road Works, a Code of Practice issued by the government does not, we are told, apply to hedge works because the hedge is not part of the road. But under the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 the hedgers have a duty to protect others who might be affected by the hedging work, especially pedestrians and motorists passing by. The Guild of Cornish Hedgers has agreed traffic management arrangements with Cornwall Highways as meeting the reasonable needs of the highway user and they follow the principles of the Street Works Act 1991.

These two layouts will meet most of the hedger's needs but if the working site is complicated by bad visibility, road junctions, pavements &c, he should seek the advice of the Highways man (see Getting Permission below). Neither layout is suitable for a main road with a centre white line, and the hedger will be told by him what needs to be done.

The hedger should wear a high-visibility waistcoat while on site.

MINIMUM LAYOUT (No Parked Vehicle)



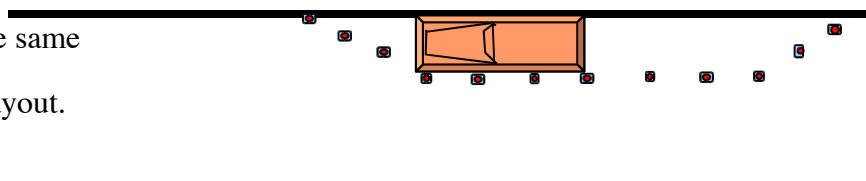
This arrangement should only be used where the hedging work is easily done within the working space of one metre from the foot of the hedge. The Roadworks sign is the first sign to be seen by the driver and should be placed 20-45m (depending on visibility) from the Road Narrows sign. The distance from the Road Narrows sign to the Keep Right sign at the start of the lead-in taper will vary between 20-45m according to the clear visibility distance and the type of road.

The traffic cones should be one metre apart and the entry and exit lines should be angled 45 degrees from the roadside edge, with no cones more than one metre out from the hedge-base. Place a Keep Right sign at the beginning and again at the end of the lead-in taper of cones.

All the signs must be to the standard specification quoted in the above Code of Practice.

STANDARD LAYOUT (Using Parked Vehicle)

Signs are the same as in the Minimum layout.



The arrangement of the signs is the same as for the minimum layout but more cones are required for the extra distances. All cones should be one metre apart. The parked vehicle should face the oncoming traffic, leaving the back doors accessible.

Getting Permission.

To avoid difficulty with the police, the hedger should ring Cornwall County Council Highways on 01-872-222-000 and ask for the Street-works Coordinator. You should tell him what you are wanting to do, tell him where the job is (give a map grid reference of the work site) and how many days the work will take (if he is not available, a message should be left for him to ring you back). After you have spoken with him, you will probably be able to tell any policeman that you have had clearance from the Highways department.

Borrowing the signs

The four signs and dozen cones may be borrowed from the Guild of Cornish Hedgers (tel. 01736-788-816) by Guild members, with a returnable deposit of £100. The cost of a new set is roughly £300.