

BVM and RPA Ltd

HEDGE MANAGEMENT - CONTRACTOR SURVEY 2009

Section 1: About Your Business

All of your answers in this section are important, as they may affect the way that you manage your hedges.

1 **County** - Please give the county or counties in which your company undertakes hedgerow management

2 Do you or your company carry out hedge management operations under contract for farmers? **Please tick.** Yes No

If NO, please return the questionnaire in the reply-paid envelope.
If YES, please complete the remainder of the questionnaire.

3 Which of the following services do you provide? **Please tick as many as apply.**

Hedge trimming <input type="checkbox"/>	Hedge planting <input type="checkbox"/>
Hedge coppicing <input type="checkbox"/>	Hedge gapping <input type="checkbox"/>
Hedge laying <input type="checkbox"/>	Hedge grubbing <input type="checkbox"/>
Tree planting in hedges <input type="checkbox"/>	

4 Approximately what percentage of your farm contract work is composed of hedge management services? %

5 On how many farms do you usually carry out hedge management operations in a typical year?

6 How do you usually charge for your hedge management services?

a Trimming	Per hour <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Per metre <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Per 100m <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Fixed price <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>
b Coppicing	Per hour <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Per metre <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Per 100m <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Fixed price <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>
c Laying	Per hour <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Per metre <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Per 100m <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Fixed price <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>
d Hedge planting	Per hour <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Per metre <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Per 100m <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	Fixed price <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>

Please enter one tick per row - where applicable.

7 Approximately how much do you charge for your hedge management services?

a Trimming	£ <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> per <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	<i>e.g. £18.50 per hour, or £3.50 per metre</i>
b Coppicing	£ <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> per <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	We appreciate that this is commercially sensitive information and assure you that it will only be used aggregated with other responses.
c Laying	£ <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> per <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	
d Hedge planting	£ <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/> per <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	

8 Do you try to time your hedge management work to coincide with other work on a farm? Yes No

Section 2: About Hedge Trimming

9 Approximately how many kilometres of hedges do you trim per year? km

10 During which months do you usually trim hedges for your farmer clients? **Please tick one box in each row.**

	May-Jun	Jul-Aug	Sep-Oct	Nov-Dec	Jan-Feb	Mar-Apr
Hedges adjacent to arable fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hedges adjacent to grass fields	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hedges adjacent to public roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hedges adjacent to farm tracks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11 How close to your client's preferred date for trimming are you usually able to carry out the work?

8 weeks before <input type="checkbox"/>	4 weeks before <input type="checkbox"/>	2 weeks before <input type="checkbox"/>	Within 1 week <input type="checkbox"/>
2 weeks after <input type="checkbox"/>	4 weeks after <input type="checkbox"/>	8 weeks after <input type="checkbox"/>	No date(s) specified by client(s) <input type="checkbox"/>

12 After trimming, approximately what percentage of the hedges you trim are in the following height ranges? (Measured from base of main woody stems to uppermost shoots, even if some plants grow from side of a bank).

These should add up to 100%.

<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> <1.0 m	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> 1.0-1.4 m	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> 1.5-2.4 m	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> 2.5-3.9 m	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> 4.0-10.0 m	<input style="width: 30px;" type="text"/> >10.0 m
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13 Hedge shape - What proportion of the hedges you trim for clients are:

Rectangular or box-shaped? % *These should add up to 100%.*
A-shaped (pointed or rounded) or chamfered? %

How do you usually trim rectangular or box-shaped hedges (if applicable)?

Top: Always cut top Cut top alternate times Never cut top

Sides: Always cut both sides Cut sides alternately

How do you usually trim A-shaped or chamfered hedges (if applicable)?
Always cut both sides
Cut sides alternately

14 What type(s) of **equipment** do you use to trim hedges? *Tick all that apply.*

Reciprocating, finger-bar cutter Flail cutter
Rotary saw/ shaping saw Other (specify)

If you use more than one type of hedge-cutting equipment, what do you use most frequently?

15 Who makes the important decisions on hedge management?

Always the client Mostly the client Shared decision Mostly me Always me

16 How often do you trim your clients' hedges? Please give the percentage in each category.
These should add up to 100%.

Yearly 2-yearly 3-yearly 4-6 years 7-12 years Not trimmed

17 Has the **frequency** of hedge trimming on a significant number of farms changed in the past five years because of the requirements of an agri-environment scheme (e.g. hedge management options in ELS, HLS, Tir Gofal)?

Yes No *If yes, how has it changed?* Yearly to 2-yearly Yearly to 3-yearly

Other changes (please specify)

18 Has the **timing** of hedge trimming on a significant number of farms changed in the past five years because of the requirements of an agri-environment scheme (e.g. hedge management options in ELS, HLS or Tir Gofal)?

No Yes *If yes, how has it changed?*
Later trimming of arable hedges Other changes (please specify)
Later trimming of grassland hedges
Later trimming of trackside hedges

19 Is it legal to remove a whole hedge without first applying for permission from the local authority?

Yes No Sometimes Don't know *Tick one box only.*

Section 3: Conservation

20 How often, ideally, should hedges be trimmed to maximise their value to wildlife?

Yearly 2 yearly 3 yearly 4-6 years Not trimmed *Tick one box only.*

21 At what time of year, ideally, should hedges be trimmed to maximise their value to wildlife?

May-Jun Jul-Aug Sep-Oct Nov-Dec Jan-Feb Mar-Apr *Tick one box only.*

Section 4: Sources of advice and training

22 Which of the following have you used for advice/training on hedge management?

No advice used **Go to Question 24**

	Publication	Visit received	Training	Website	Are you a member of this organisation?
FWAG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ADAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lantra	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local college	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Park Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural England/ Defra	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CCW/ Welsh Assembly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ECSFDI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RSPB	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agronomist/ land agent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tick all that apply.

Name of other org.

Did you, or do you intend to, apply the advice/training received? Yes, fully Yes, in part No

23 If you did not (or don't intend to) **fully implement** the advice/training received please indicate why.

Please tick as many as apply.

Too expensive to implement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advice was not environmentally sound	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impractical to implement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appearance of the farm would have been adversely affected	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advice contradicted good agricultural practice	<input type="checkbox"/>	The skilled labour required was not available	<input type="checkbox"/>

Section 6: Hedge Management - What influences you or your clients?

24 How important are the following factors in determining the way that you manage your clients' hedges?

	Very important	Important	Some importance	Not important
Controlling pests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Controlling weeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reducing shading of crops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing shelter for livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing a stock-proof boundary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Requirements of highways authority or parish council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping the farm tidy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining/improving the appearance of the local landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining/improving habitats for gamebirds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintaining/improving habitats for wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of labour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advice from agricultural consultant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advice from conservation advisor or environmental groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost of hedge-laying/ coppicing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost of trimming and maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

25 In your view, how much of a problem are the following in trimming hedges at two-yearly or longer intervals?

	Major problem	Moderate problem	Minor problem	No problem
Difficulty in dealing with trimmings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inability of machinery to cope	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased 'wear and tear' to machinery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Longer time required to trim hedges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deterioration of hedge structure e.g. thinning at bottom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fast growing species e.g. ash	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

26 How much of a problem are the following to late winter hedge trimming on your clients' farms?

	<i>Major problem</i>	<i>Moderate problem</i>	<i>Minor problem</i>	<i>No problem</i>
Limited availability of labour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access limited by growing crops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access limited by soil conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

27 To what extent do the following issues pose a problem to your hedge management operations?

	<i>Major problem</i>	<i>Moderate problem</i>	<i>Minor problem</i>	<i>No problem</i>
Availability of skilled labour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preferred time for trimming conflicts with crop management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmers' views of best practice conflict with my view	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trimming hedges which include hedgerow trees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

28 How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neither</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>
Hedges must be protected by legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmers know best how to manage their hedges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation advice costs too much to implement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conservation advice on hedge management is impractical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hedges are an obstacle to efficient farming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I need better information to improve my hedge management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmers should have their hedges cut more frequently	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Thank you for helping us with our survey. Please return your completed questionnaire in the envelope provided to:
 Nigel Tuffnell, Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd, Farthing Green House, 1 Beccles Road, Loddon, Norfolk,
 NR14 6LT.**