



# ADVICE FOR WORKING ON ROADSIDE HEDGES IN CORNWALL

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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 footway  
from any direction understand exactly what is  
happening and what is expected of them?”**

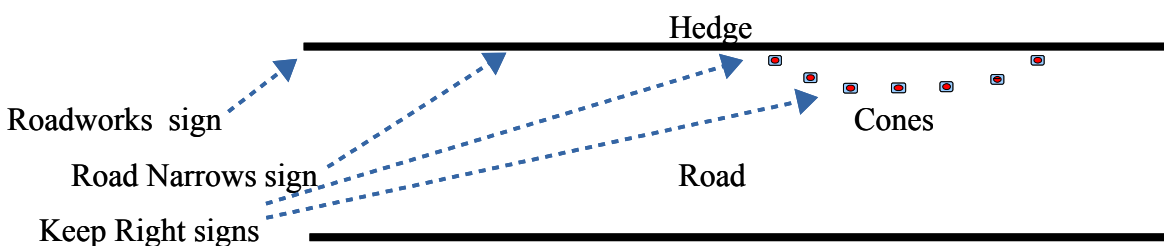
Usually the roadside hedge belongs to the adjoining landowner and he has the responsibility, so far as is reasonably practicable, of making sure that the hedge does not obstruct the road. The Safety at Street Works and Road Works, a Code of Practice issued by the government does not, we are told, apply 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.

These traffic management arrangements were agreed with Cornwall Highways in 2008 as meeting the reasonable needs of the highway user, and they follow the principles of the Street Works Act 1991. **Hedgers intending to work on a roadside hedge are advised to check with the Highways department that the procedures given here are currently in accordance with its official guidelines.**

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

**The hedger should wear a high-visibility jacket while on site. Hedging cannot be carried out during heavy rain, and hedging work on roadsides should also be suspended, clearing the road of signs and cones, in the event of fog or other conditions significantly affecting visibility.**

## MINIMUM LAYOUT (No Parked Vehicle)



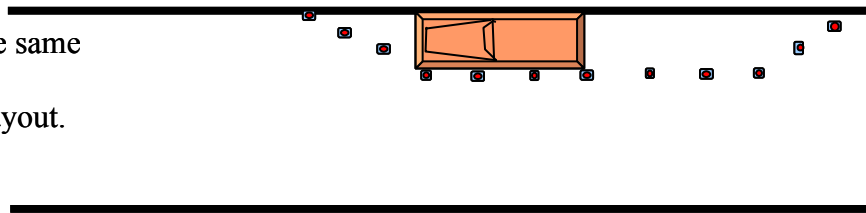
This layout should only be used where the hedging work is easily done within the working space of one metre from the foot of the hedge. The Roadworks sign is the first sign to be seen by the driver and should be placed 20-45m (depending on visibility) ahead of the Road Narrows sign. The distance from 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 The Safety at Street Works and Road Works Code of Practice mentioned above.

### **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/truck or trailer accessible to the hedger. All work is carried out within the area enclosed by the cones.

### **Getting Permission.**

To satisfy any query from the police on patrol, the hedger should contact Cornwall Council Highways Department and ask for the Street-works Co-ordinator. You should tell him or her what you are wanting to do, tell them where the job is (give a map grid reference of the work site) and how many days the work will take. After you have spoken with them, you should be able to tell anyone in authority who questions you that you have had clearance from the Highways department. The Authority may also advise you as to obtaining the correct road signs.

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More information for working on Cornish hedges is available at  
[www.cornishhedges.co.uk](http://www.cornishhedges.co.uk) / Cornish Hedges Library

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