

Hi Paula,

Following discussion with David and our landscaping contractor, the only suitable plants for screening at this location would be cherry laurels or holm oak.

Cherry Laurels are readily available and could be planted during the last week of March. They would provide an evergreen screen but I appreciate your reservations. They have the potential to be invasive but we will be planting it in a situation which is easy to maintain.

In terms of Holm Oak, the Processionary Oak Moth control restrictions are limiting what is imported into the UK from Europe so we can't currently source Select Standard Holm Oaks (*Quercus ilex*). At best we might be able to get some for September 2022, but not of the size we ideally wanted.

In terms of other options, we could plant a native hedge on the A30 side of the wall, including Hornbeam, Field Maple and Hawthorn as larger standards which will help. This wouldn't provide an instant screen and would be deciduous, but by the end of establishment period (April to October) there would be a reasonable screen. If you would like to explore this option I can ask the contractor to check availability of plants with a view to planting in the last week of March.

If you prefer the hedge option I will need to instruct the contractor by the end of this week to allow them time to order plants for delivery by the last week in March.

Please could you let me know your thoughts as soon as possible so I can issue instructions?

Kind regards,

Michelle

**Michelle Reed**

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