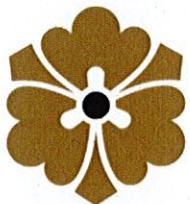


# Broads Reed and Sedge Cutters Association

## Training and Instruction Booklet



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## INTRODUCTION

The Broads Reed and Sedge Cutters Association (BRASCA) was formed in 2003 to represent the interests of self-employed reed and sedge cutters working in the Broads.

This is a training and instruction booklet designed for individuals who are cutting or considering cutting reed and/or sedge for the thatching industry. The booklet provides a base from where to start and the best practices to follow. The future may well bring about the introduction of lighter and more efficient harvesting machinery and therefore cutting reed and sedge will have to adapt. The requirements of the UK thatching industry are also subject to change over time and reed cutters must keep abreast with thatching needs. The notes are therefore guidelines only and will be reviewed and updated as time passes. A provision for this review to take place will be enabled by "Training and Instruction booklet review" appearing on the agenda for the BRASCA Annual General Meeting (AGM) from 2019 onwards.

BRASCA has been able to undertake the production of this document thanks to the funding received from The Prince's Countryside Fund. The 3 year project: Securing Futures: Broads Reed and Sedge Cutters commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016. The project has also enabled our younger members to undertake necessary certificated training courses such as chainsaw use, boat handling, trailer use etc.

Reed and sedge cutting in The Broads relies on the goodwill and cooperation of other organisations for this traditional and sustainable method of management to survive. BRASCA is grateful to have received support and contributions from Natural England (Rick Southwood) and Norfolk Wildlife Trust (Kevin Hart, John Blackburn and Adam Pimble) in compiling these notes.

Broads Reed & Sedge Cutters Association.

Richard Starling & Paul Eldridge.

January 2019

## **REED – Phragmites australis (Common Reed)**

In Britain, reed is one of the tallest native grasses and can reach heights of 10 feet. Reed cutting to provide roofing material has taken place for many centuries in the Broads. Harvesting generally starts in December and continues until the new growth of reed, known locally as colt, emerges which is normally in early April but varies according to temperature. Reed is tied into bundles with each bundle being 24” in circumference when tied 12” up from the base or butt end of the bundle. Left uncut, reed beds can rapidly dry out promoting the growth of scrub. Reed beds can be very important for wildlife especially nesting birds such as reed warbler, bittern, bearded-tits, marsh harriers and more recently in the Broads, cranes. Management of reed beds can be undertaken to accommodate both wildlife and commercial interests. A balance is nearly always possible.

### **First steps**

When taking over a reed bed which has previously been managed to produce commercial reed, it is best to meet on site with the landowner, site manager and, if possible, the cutter who previously worked the site. Reed suitable for thatching can be cut every year (single wale) or every second year (double wale). Pockets of unmanaged and/or longer rotation cut reed should be left ideally for a 6 to 8 year rotation. Take great care not to create ‘frost pockets’ by leaving relatively small areas of cut reed surrounded by tall reed.

### **Restoration**

Areas of old reed need to be cleared first and the quickest and most cost effective method is to block burn. This involves cutting a fire break around the area of standing reed and letting a fire spread with the wind through the standing reed. Block burning should only be used as a reed bed restoration tool and there are important considerations.

#### Circumstances warranting block burning

- Areas that are intended for commercial management.
- An area that is already in commercial management but cannot be cut owing to circumstances, i.e. poor quality reed, dog-legged stems, starling damage.
- Consent may be needed to carry out block burning, e.g. on SSSI's.

#### Read the appropriate legislation and guidance

- Consult the Heather & Grass Burning Code - Best Practice Guide 5, Use of fire to manage reed beds and saw-sedge.
- See BRASCA's 'Procedures for Controlled Burning'.
- Remember, depending on weather and especially wind conditions, once alight, a standing block of old reed with considerable dead and dry bottom litter, is almost impossible to stop. Adequate fire breaks are essential as are methods to extinguish the fire.

If block burning is not an option then the reed should be cut and burnt in rows. Try to burn, where possible, on less sensitive areas. Some Cutters find that a mix between block burning and cutting works with the cut reed placed against smaller blocks of standing reed.

## Harvesting

For the production of thatching quality reed, there are basic guidelines to follow;

1. Cut only when the reed stems are ready, i.e. when the stems have turned light brown, have dried and are free of leaf. Any reed which has green/yellow colouring in the lower part or mid-way up the stems is not ready.
2. Cut as low as possible in order to capture the thickest and hardest part of the stem. This should always be well below the stems' first node.
3. Use a machine which does not cause compaction, i.e. a lightweight Grillo or BCS type machine on softer, peat-based reed beds and an 'Olympia' reed mower-binder on firmer, clay-based beds. The same applies to machinery used to remove bundles from the reed bed. Lightweight trailers pulled by argo-cats, iron horse or quad-bikes are preferred with low ground pressure and speed. This is essential to avoid ruts and damage to the bed surface and forming colts.
4. Cutting is easier when the wind is blowing at 90 degrees to the line of the standing reed. Apart from assisting the reed into the machine's front mounted collection box, the standing reed is also able to dry quicker. Reed on the downwind side of a block or in the shade will not dry as quick in the mornings.
5. Always use a sharp cutting blade which gives a clean cut of the reed stems. Shattered stems result from using blunt blades and/or weak, thin stem walls.
6. There is evidence on some reed beds in the Broads that cutting every year (single wale) can result in sparser and weaker reed growth. If this occurs, change to a double wale (2 year) cutting regime. If the reed is too tall then single wale cutting will reduce growth height.
7. When cleaning and tying the bundles takes place on the reed stubble, always dispose of the litter by burning in small piles as soon as possible. A few small piles of litter can be left for insects or small mammals and on some sites are used by cranes for nesting. Always liaise with the site owner/manager regarding leaving any litter.

## Cleaning & Storage

1. Some Cutters use powered machines to remove grass and short stems to clean the reed prior to it being tied into bundles. Many still prefer the hand held 'dresser' or comb to clean reed. Regardless of how it is done, it is important to ensure that no grass or short (less than 2ft) reed is left in the bundle. There is evidence to suggest that grass and short reed presence will draw rain water up into the bundle when it is put on the roof. A clean bundle consisting of larger diameter stems will not do this so much and the stems will also dry quicker when on the roof. (Research by Prof.Dr.J.M.Greef - Germany)
2. Reed has to be cut when dry and, equally important, has to be stored and kept dry. Storage should be on high ground which will not flood and stacks should be on pallets, or an equivalent method, which permit free air flow through the base of the stack. Always leave a storage site tidy. During winter months in the Broads, it is advised to keep stacks covered using heavy duty tarpaulins but tied in such a manner that the butt ends of the bundles can be exposed to the air to facilitate further drying.
3. Moisture Content: BRASCA Members have the use of a GE Protimeter Balemaster GRN6160 meter to test the moisture content of bundles. The metal probe being inserted into the centre of the bundle. The testing can be done very quickly and is generally done

when the reed bundles are loaded for onward transportation to the receiver. This way the actual testing can be witnessed by the haulier or the receiver if present. Bundles of reed should have a moisture content not exceeding 17.5%. *It is also important to issue a 'Reed Material Certificate' for each load. A copy of a suitable draft certificate can be found in appendix 1. Record keeping of each load of reed sold is essential.*

### **Reed beds & Water Levels**

The majority of reed beds in the Broads have no means to control water levels and are part of the natural functioning flood plain areas in each river catchment. This results in the reed beds having a daily rise and fall in water levels, providing the dykes in the reed bed sites are connected to the nearby river or broad water. It is essential therefore to ensure that these dykes remain clear and the water flows. Low areas on the reed beds may need shallow foot drains (grups) to promote on /off water flow. Open, clear dykes and foot drains also permit the free movement of fish, eels etc. which in turn can make sites more attractive for certain bird species such as the bittern. Water stagnation has to be avoided at all costs as this can lead to areas rotting and reed growth declining rapidly. Poor water quality can impact commercial reed. Flow will need to be considered on a site to site basis.

In an ideal situation, shallow flooding in early spring promotes good reed growth, however, sufficient rainfall during the May to July period is of equal importance. Cold, dry springs generally result in shorter and sparser reed growth. Each year is different and therefore the reed may well differ each year as well. The few sites in the Broads with water control are able to be drained to permit easy harvesting. These are important in that many days can be lost during reed cutting owing to high water levels in the Broads system. Water movement on these 'controlled' sites is of great importance. If too much water is introduced too quickly, it can result in the new reed becoming "dog -legged" (bent at the base of the stems) making it useless for thatching. Sites which are deliberately shallow flooded need water movement regardless, otherwise stagnation takes place especially during hot and dry periods. Controlled structures such as sluices therefore need careful attention and maintenance.

## **Reed – Thatchers perspective**

BRASCA is pleased to have had the support of The National Society of Master Thatchers Ltd. and the East Anglian Master Thatchers Association in preparing and endorsing this summary.

1. Reed which has been harvested in dry weather conditions on beds which are not deep flooded to ensure that the stems are dry when tied into bundles and with a moisture content below 17.5%.
2. That the stems have a clean cut from a sharp cutting bar which leaves no shattered ends.
3. The reed is cut as low as possible to the ground to capture the thickest and hardest part of the stems.
4. Norfolk reed is traditionally tied into bundles of '3 hands' (between 24" to 26" or 60 to 66 cms.) circumference approximately 12" (30 cms.) up from the butt end.
5. The bundles are cleaned thoroughly before tying and are free as possible from grass and especially short, fine lengths of reed.
6. The bundles or bales of reed are stacked and kept covered with a suitable tarpaulin prior to delivery to keep the reeds dry and reduce the risk of condensation.
7. Receipts are issued for each load sold.
8. A material certificate / delivery note is also issued for each load (See appendix 1).
9. Most loads of Norfolk reed have bundles of various lengths, however, it is generally accepted that when describing the length of the reed, long reed is 6 ft.+, medium reed is 4ft.6" to 6ft and short reed below 4ft.6" in length.
10. The reed stems should be as straight as possible.
11. Some thatchers may require a laboratory test for salt and lignin content on the reed. Cutters / suppliers are advised to provide the thatchers with appropriate samples of reed for testing if requested. Presently, there are no Norfolk based facilities offering testing of reed for salt and lignin content.

## **SEDGE (*Cladium mariscus*)**

Sedge is flexible, tough and a relatively long lasting material used to form the ridges on thatched buildings. It is tied into bunches, each being a minimum of 26 inches circumference. Care has to be taken when handling sedge owing to the sharp, serrated edges, however, unlike reed, bunches of sedge can be loaded using a pitch fork. Sedge is harvested every 3 to 4 years but on some sites a longer rotation may be required to achieve the optimum length suitable for thatching of 4 to 5 feet. Left uncut, sedge can grow up to 8 to 10 feet in length but dead litter will accumulate resulting in sparse growth and very low plant diversity. A carefully managed sedge bed can be very important for wildlife with considerable plant diversity and hosting several species of nesting birds. Small mammals are also common on well managed sites. Sedge beds host many rare and important insects.

### **First Steps**

If you are taking over a sedge bed which has been previously managed to produce commercial sedge it is best to meet on site with the landowner, site manager and, if possible, the cutter who previously worked the site. Always try to divide the area of sedge into a minimum of four blocks to ensure only a quarter is cut each year. This will allow some harvesting each year over the four year rotation. On larger extensive sites, even more separate blocks will be needed. In the Bure valley, sedge is often cut on a three year rotation to keep bog myrtle in check. Low, wet sites may require longer rotations of five or six years. Pockets of unmanaged and/or longer rotation cut sedge should be left for biodiversity benefit.

### **Restoration**

Areas of old sedge need to be cleared first and the most effective way is to brush cut the sedge and burn it in rows.

### **Harvesting**

Great care is needed with sedge harvesting. The plant can be killed by the cut stubble becoming deep flooded before it has a chance to regrow. Trampling can impact regrowth as can late burning. These are the guidelines to follow to avoid any impact or damage;

1. Always cut leaving a stubble height of 4 to 6 inches.
2. Never use dual wheels on harvesting machines which should always be small and lightweight to avoid compaction (BCS or Grillo type machines).
3. Never cut sedge when there is a risk of the site becoming deep flooded. In the Broads, this can happen on many sites after the first spring tide in August.
4. Keep the use of quad bikes and trailers to a minimum.
5. Burn off the dead litter in thin rows or piles as you go. Do not leave litter to burn off later as this can seriously impact sedge which has already started to regrow. Burning in large piles should be avoided to keep ash accumulation down.

Every Cutter has a different method. Some let the machine cut into the standing sedge, then reverse the machine out and repeat the process. This leaves the cut sedge pushed together in the upright position from which it can be pulled, laid on the cut stubble and tied. The residue litter pile can then be forked clear for the machine to carry on cutting. Another method is to cut enough material so it can be removed from the collection box mounted on the front of the



machine and then laid on the stubble with the sedge butt ends in a straight and even line as possible. This process is repeated leaving a row of cut sedge piles on the stubble as the machine cuts the length of the actual block. The individual piles are then cleaned of dead litter by placing a piece of wood (approx. four feet long and 3"x1" thick) across the pile of cut sedge about three-quarters away from the butt ends. Using a pitch fork, the dead litter can be pushed out from the sedge quite effectively.

### **Storage**

Bunches should be left to dry for as long as possible. If the sedge is green when stacked, then it is likely that heating will occur or mildew will start to form in the bunches. Always arrange a stack to permit air flow beneath. Arranging bunches in a criss-cross stack makes gaps in the stack through which air can flow. Finally, if rain is expected, cover the top of the stack with a lightweight tarpaulin but remove any cover in sunny, dry conditions to facilitate the drying process. Sedge which is completely dried is best stored on pallets and if outside, kept covered with a lightweight tarpaulin. Avoid stacking sedge on the actual sedge bed and try to use higher ground and, preferably, where it does not flood. *A materials certification & delivery note template for sedge can be found in Appendix 2.*

### **Burning Litter**

Avoid burning alone. Always telephone Norfolk Fire and Rescue H.Q. (01603-810351) to inform that a controlled burn of sedge litter will be taking place, stating the location, access (nearest road), estimated completion time and contact telephone number and name. Ensure sufficient buckets of water are readily available throughout the burn. Some cutters use hand pump water cannons to control burning, however, large amounts of litter may require the presence of a small water pump. Litter should be burnt in piles or rows. BRASCA does not recommend the use of metal burning trays on sedge beds. Moving the trays generally involves dragging them with a machine which can cause damage and walking repeatedly to and from a burning tray causes trampling. The hot base of the tray also 'cooks' the sedge beneath it, whereas burning in small piles or ridges is quicker and causes less damage from trampling. The ideal conditions for burning are when the stubble is shallow flooded, the litter is bone dry and the wind is light to moderate in strength. Many cutters carry out burning as cutting progresses and some undertake burning first thing in the morning when vegetation can be damp. Regardless, litter should be burnt off as soon as possible, preferably within two days.

### **Record Keeping**

In light of the longer rotation periods involved always keep a diary/record of start dates, completion dates, etc. and obtain a site map on which the separate blocks can be identified.

## Harvesting Dates

There is some evidence to suggest that early cutting (April onwards) can result in greater plant diversity on some sedge beds, however, the most important concern remains avoiding any disturbance to nesting birds. Sedge beds in the Broads can support nesting sedge warblers, reed buntings, water rail, mallard, greylag geese, marsh harrier, bearded tit, bittern and crane. By having a four year rotation, only a quarter of the area (one block in four) is worked. Most birds prefer three or four year old sedge in which to nest and therefore it is best to first establish whether cutting can start on the site in April or not. This will probably not be possible on small sites, however, those with extensive areas of sedge, particularly parts of the Upper Thurne, Ant and Bure valleys, could permit some limited earlier cutting. It is essential to discuss this option with the landowner or site manager first. Some sites have management agreements in place which may already stipulate harvesting dates. It may be possible to change these dates but only if an official derogation has been granted. For protection against inadvertent lawbreaking, i.e. disturbing nesting birds, have an independent person with ornithological knowledge survey the sedge bed before cutting.

An early start (April) should be followed by an earlier finish (end of August) which will permit sufficient time for the cut plants to achieve a good regrowth height to withstand autumn/winter flood levels. There are two situations which may enable sedge cutting past mid-August;

- Some sites are higher and therefore any flooding may not cover the stubble. Despite this, when cutting with a machine, it is advisable not to harvest sedge in the Broads after the end of September.
- A traditional scythe is used. Cutting using a scythe has some advantages over a machine particularly for late (after September) harvesting. The scythe blade can easily be kept razor sharp giving a cleaner cut than that from a reciprocating cutter bar and this in turn permits a quicker regrowth of the plant. The blade can be held higher with a scythe thereby avoiding any flood damage to cut stubble.

It is therefore possible to mow sedge late in the season (autumn months) BUT one must avoid any frost damage and, more importantly, any damage caused by burning litter in piles. With late cutting, it is advisable, if possible, to carry off the litter and either leave it or burn it away from the cut sedge.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Controlled Burning**

- Telephone Norfolk Fire & Rescue Headquarters 01603-810351
- When recorded message starts, press number 3 to connect to the Control Room.
- Inform the Control Room Operator that you wish to give notice of controlled burning of reed or sedge litter.
- State the name and location of the site where the burning will take place and the nearest road access point.
- Your name and telephone number.
- When burning will start and the expected time to complete.
- Consult Natural England & Defra's: The Heather & Grass Burning Code 2007 - Use of fire to manage reed beds and saw sedge.

### **Protocol for Nesting Birds**

There are concerns that the commercial cutting of reed and, in particular sedge could affect nesting birds. The Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) makes it an offence to disturb, damage or destroy a bird's nest that is in use. Association members have, we consider, always endeavoured to work with all wildlife and especially the care of all nesting birds. We also view that the harvesting of reed and sedge maintains the habitat on which the wildlife relies particularly birds for nesting and feeding. Despite this, BRASCA considers that a protocol accepted by leading Conservation Bodies may allay any concerns.

### Reed Cutting

- On the tidal ronds where extensive areas are cut, leave patches of unmanaged reed to provide nesting opportunities. This is important especially alongside any rond dykes close to the flood banks since these may support feed for bitterns.
- Where possible leave small piles of litter to provide habitat for insects.
- Cutting close to known bittern or crane preferred nesting sites should be done as early as possible ie. during January to avoid any disturbance close to the spring nesting times. Always try to end the reed cutting season as far away as possible from these sensitive nest areas. Do not cut closer than 50 yards to a known bittern nesting location.
- Avoid cutting close to winter Harrier roosts especially during late afternoon.

## Sedge Cutting

- Prior to cutting any sedge, carry out a watch on the area to establish what birds are present. If need be, liaise with site managers, Natural England and/or Norfolk Wildlife Trust to discuss the cutting regime.
- Avoid cutting close to bittern, crane or marsh harrier nest areas during the spring, early summer period, leaving these areas for later if possible. Do not cut closer than 50 yards to a known bittern nesting location. Cranes are very sensitive to disturbance and no work should be carried out on sites during nesting.
- Bearded tits do not always nest in reed and have been recorded nesting in 3 and 4 year old commercial sedge. As with sedge warblers and reed bunting nests, leave large uncut areas around each nest (5x 5 yards) or better still wait for the young birds to fledge.
- Water rail often favour nesting close to shallow open pools surrounded by dense sedge. Leave an uncut margin around half the pool edge.
- Marsh harriers often build several nests before the female selects a preferred nest for egg laying. Watch for the female settling rather than the male harrier's nest building efforts.
- Leave some uncut vegetation around unmanaged scrub areas for grasshopper and cetti's warblers.

## *Remember.....*

- Keep the location of all nest sites confidential. Egg thieves remain a serious threat to nesting birds. Make note of any car registration number of persons acting suspiciously near rare bird nest sites. Inform the Police, RSPB or the Association. Do not confront any person you suspect of trespassing or stealing eggs.
- Politely request to see identification of any person unknown to you who introduces themselves as representatives / staff of RSPB, Broads Authority, Defra, Natural England or any conservation body. Make note of their names. If in doubt, ask the person or persons to contact BRASCA and do not pass on any information on nest or rare plant locations.
- In the event that you are requested to cease cutting or to refrain from cutting owing to the presence of a rare nesting birds or for any other reason and you are not content with the reasons given, then contact BRASCA immediately.

## Leptospirosis (Weil's disease) \*Information from NHS England

Leptospirosis, also called Weil's disease, is an infection you can catch from animals. It's rare in the UK. Leptospirosis is spread in the pee of infected animals – most commonly rats, mice, cows, pigs and dogs.

You can catch it if:

- soil or freshwater (such as from a river, canal or lake) containing infected pee gets in your mouth, eyes or a cut – usually during activities like kayaking, outdoor swimming or fishing
- you touch an infected animal's blood or flesh – usually from working with animals or animal parts

It's very rare to get leptospirosis from pets, other people or bites.

See a GP if you might have been exposed to infected pee and you have:

- a very high temperature, or feel hot and shivery
- a headache
- feeling and being sick
- aching muscles and joints
- red eyes
- loss of appetite

These are symptoms of leptospirosis.

Ask for an urgent appointment if you have:

- yellow skin and eyes (jaundice)
- swollen ankles, feet or hands
- chest pain
- shortness of breath
- coughing up blood

You might have a serious infection that needs to be treated quickly.

## **Information for members concerning hand-arm vibration at work.**

Hand-arm vibration arises from the use of hand-held power tools including pedestrian controlled mowers such as BCS, Grillo and 'Olympia' reed mower binder type machines currently used for harvesting reed and sedge. BRASCA cannot accept any liability or responsibility whatsoever for individual member's health and safety matters, including hand-arm vibration issues and suggests that the following guidance and additional preventative measures be considered.

- Read leaflet INDG175, Health & Safety Executive ([www.hse.gov.uk/vibration](http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration)) 'Hand-arm vibration at work' for guidance and information on the symptoms, effects, controlling the risks, assessing the risks etc.

Reduce exposure to vibration by;

- Selecting and using lower vibrating machinery or even better use alternative methods.
- Keeping your equipment in good condition and ensure blades are sharp. Anti-vibration mounts should be changed frequently (every year).
- Alternate the machinery operator if this is possible on a frequent basis.
- Use anti-vibration protective gloves and keep hands warm and do regular finger exercises to help ensure good circulation.
- If a machine is in constant use ie the operator's hands remain on the machinery handle bars during operation then take regular rest periods.
- Members are advised to refer to machinery manufacturers 'operating instructions and safety notes' for the machine being used.

Remember that during normal reed and sedge cutting operations using a BCS, Grillo or other similar pedestrian mowers, vibration is reduced when a collection box is fitted, when the machine is used on soft ground conditions and at low engines revs. Expect higher vibration levels if the machine is used without a collection box, on firm ground and at higher revs.

It is further suggested that Members keep a daily record of the time spent using any hand-held power tool including pedestrian controlled mowers when undertaking any work ( especially contract work) which is different to normal reed and sedge cutting operations. Remember, hand-arm vibration is cumulative.

## Appendix 1

### Materials Certification & Delivery Note for REED

(Insert information as necessary)

Supplier: (Name & address, telephone, email)

Goods: (The total number of reed bundles being supplied and whether baled)

Origin: (Where and when the reed was harvested from and the dates when it was cut)

Storage on Site: (Details on whether stacked on pallets etc and whether covered with tarpaulin)

Loading dates/information: (When loaded and where and also what it was loaded onto i.e. truck, pick up, trailer etc. Also if the reed was covered with tarpaulin after it was loaded. Also, state that the reed was loaded during dry conditions and that the moisture content was verified as being below 17.5%. Who loaded the reed and who transported it.)

#### Receiver's declaration:

I inspected the bundles of reed prior to receiving them and found them to be dry and fit for the purpose of thatching. I am aware that these bundles may contain a small percentage of grass, reed mace and other plants. The bundles may also have some insect presence including insect larva and may attract insects at a later date. The supplier cannot accept any responsibility and/or liability for the presence of any insect or larva in the reed. The supplier recommends that, prior to thatching, the bundles be stored on pallets in a dry, well ventilated location and kept protected from rain.

Receiver's signature in agreement with the declaration: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Receiver's Name & Address: (Who received the reed).

## Appendix 2

### Materials Certification & Delivery Note for SEDGE

(Insert information as necessary)

Supplier: (Name & address & telephone number)

Goods: (The total number of sedge bunches being supplied)

Origin: (Where and when the sedge was harvested from and the dates it was cut)

Storage on Site: (How it was stored e.g. on pallets and protected from rain with use of lightweight tarpaulin)

Loading dates/information: (When loaded and where and also what it was loaded onto i.e. pickup and or trailer. If the sedge was covered with tarpaulin after it was loaded or not and the weather conditions when loaded – dry conditions are always the aim).

#### Receiver's declaration:

I inspected the bunches of sedge and found them to be dry and fit for the purpose of thatching. The bunches are still green and will shrink as they dry.

I am aware that these bunches contain a mixture of other plants including some reed. The bunches may also have some insect presence including insect larva and may attract insects at a later date. The supplier cannot accept any responsibility and/or liability for the presence of any insect or larva in the bunches.

The supplier recommends that, if stored, the bunches of sedge be allowed to thoroughly dry then stacked on pallets in small stacks with gaps between the bunches. Every second layer should be crossed stacked to benefit air flow amongst the bunches. Stacks should be kept protected from rain.

Receiver's signature in agreement with the declaration: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Receiver's Name & Address: (Who received the sedge).