

Brash-lined path

Often after thinning or felling there is a large amount of brash left lying beside a forest trail which can look very messy. Some conscientious managers clear this by dragging it into the edge of neighbouring trees. Here is an alternative use for the brash, forming a dead-hedge and winding path through woodland or cleared areas.



HOW TO BUILD

● The example below has one metre long square sawn (1½" or 2" square) treated timber stakes. Make sure that pairs of stakes are well driven into the ground 300 mm apart at 1m intervals. The stakes form a frame into which lengths of brash can be inserted to form a hedge, a path edge, a maze, an enclosure or hiding places. Using treated posts will give it a slightly longer life span, though suitable branch wood will also suffice. ● Areas that become more heavily used as a result

of concentrating people on the path or in an enclosed area will probably need bark or wood chip/shavings adding.

● This work could easily be carried out by children and families themselves on activity days. It's not intended to last for long, but is a nice project with a number of different variations.

● Add an occasional noisy object like a wind chime, cow bell, clap boards or a hollow log to hit. ● Regard it as a success if children take ownership of branches and the brash material gradually disappears.



Safety

- Regularly check and remove hazards like sharp cut ends at (children's) eye level. Re-check as material is moved.

