

PLANTING SPECIFICATION NOTES

PRELIMS

Programme

All soft landscape implementation works to be carried out prior to substantial completion of the development construction work (or the relevant phase/portion of the development), or as soon as weather/seasonal conditions permit thereafter.

Quality control

All soft landscape works shall be carried out by trained and competent operatives under appropriate supervision. Materials and plant stock supplies may be subject to approval by client representative. Workmanship will be subject to inspection and approval.

SITE PREPARATION

Site Clearance

Site clearance within areas of retained trees or shrubs will be kept to an absolute minimum and will be restricted to the use of hand tools only in accordance with British Standard BS5837 2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - Recommendations. Other areas to be cultivated for planting are to be cleared of all existing plant growth as well as builders rubbish and any other waste material. Chemical weed control is restricted to use of a biodegradable translocated systemic herbicide applied in accordance with the COSHH regulations 2002 and the product's COSHH sheet applied by suitably trained staff.

Imported topsoil

Any imported topsoil shall be tested in accordance with the requirements of BS3882 for 'General Amenity Grade' prior to delivery to site. Any amelioration requirements shall be carried out as detailed.

Ground preparation/cultivation

The preparation and final cultivation of ground ready for planting shall not take place until all adjacent building work has been completed to avoid damage to new soft landscape areas. Where this is unavoidable, adequate fenced protection will be used. Ground preparation within the vicinity of trees shall be undertaken carefully by hand using appropriate non-mechanical tools and without disturbance to roots larger than 25mm in diameter. Planting areas will be cultivated and levelled to achieve graded smooth flowing contours of even fine tilth. Cultivated depths will be a minimum of 450mm. The full depth of cultivated soil shall be topsoil. Stones and debris larger than 50mm will be removed. Where necessary adequate topsoil depths will be achieved through subsoil excavation and additional topsoil build up as appropriate. If any subsoil excavation is required, the final subsoil surface shall be broken up and loosened to provide a free draining substrata prior to the placement of the topsoil. Any areas badly affected by construction works (compaction, contamination etc.) shall have the area of affected topsoil excavated to the full depth and replaced with fresh topsoil. For compacted areas the subsoil shall also be broken up and loosened across the area affected to provide a free draining substrata prior to the placement of the topsoil. Topsoil shall be spread in 150mm layers and gently firmed to avoid uneven settlement.

Edges

Following firming and planting, the finished ground levels for planting areas shall grade down to 70-80mm below the surrounding paved and grass areas so as to produce a neat edge and allow for a basic depth of bark mulch.

PLANTING

Weed control

If there is a delay between ground preparations and planting, soil areas will be cleared of any recent weed growth and any other waste material that may have strayed into the soft landscape areas. The soil surface and any areas of compaction will be re-cultivated as necessary to produce a fine tilth before planting. Chemical weed control to assist in this process will be restricted to that stated above.

Plants and plant handling

All plant material is to be of good quality stock, size in accordance with the specification and in a healthy condition: free from pest, disease and weed growth in accordance with BS3936 and HTA National Plant Specification. Any British Native species shall be of British origin, of local seed stock wherever possible and from sustainable seed sources. Plants will be handled in accordance with BS4428 and HTA code for Plant Handling and Establishment of Landscape Plants to ensure that transit, any storage, handling on site and planting operations preserve and promote the condition of the stock. Trees and tree handling will be in accordance with BS8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations.

Planting generally

A suitable compost will be incorporated at a rate of 50 ltrs/m² into cultivated ground. Plants to be evenly spaced throughout allotted planting areas, at densities as specified. Planting will be carried out in accordance to the HTA code stated above and into planting hole/pits slightly larger than the growing container/root spread, with sides and bottom of pits loosened as necessary to ensure adequate drainage and to allow normal root growth. Digging of planting pits/holes within the spread of retained trees will be carried out with care not to damage significant tree roots and if necessary planting locations will be adjusted accordingly. Each plant will be thoroughly watered before and after planting, on the day of planting. All bare root planting to be carried out only during the winter planting season between mid-November and the end of February. All container grown tree planting to be carried out in September.

Specimen Tree Planting

Tree planting will be in accordance with BS8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations. Tree pits will be excavated squares to a width and depth required to accommodate the entire root system without pruning or bending. In the case of container grown or root balled trees the planting pit will be at least 15cm wider in dimensions than the root-ball. The sides and bottom of tree pits will be loosened as necessary to ensure adequate drainage and allow normal root growth. The tree pit will be watered thoroughly prior to planting. The back fill material will be topsoil with a suitable tree fertiliser added in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Tree support will be of a design suitable for the size of tree and particular root stock as follows: single stake for bare-root trees within the standard size categories; double stake and belt ties for bare root trees within the extra heavy standard size categories and smaller trees if container grown or root ball stock; triple stake and belt ties for root balled or container grown trees within the extra heavy standard size category; proprietary underground guying systems for all trees of semi-mature size categories. Following planting all trees will be thoroughly watered and then as necessary during the first summer season to ensure healthy growth.

Mulch

On completion of planting operations all planting areas are to be spread with well-composted ornamental grade (15-65mm) bark mulch to an even thickness of 100mm.

Rabbit protection

All hedge plants will be protected with 600mm high photodegradable plastic netting guards designed to split as the stem of the growing tree/shrub expands. All to be installed and secured in accordance with manufacturers instructions.

MAINTENANCE

Replacement planting

For the first five years following planting, at the end of each growing season, any failed, failing or missing plants or failed/failing grass areas will be removed and replaced with new in accordance with the original specification.

Weeding

During maintenance visits there will be checks for and removal of any unsightly weeds that are competing with or growing beyond canopy of shrubs and other plants. All weed removal in planting bed areas shall simply be carried out by hand pulling and or light hoeing.

Watering

For the establishment period (first 2-3 years) all planting will be watered as and when necessary during dry weather to promote healthy growth and prevent plant failure. Weekly watering rates should be no less than 20 litres per tree; 5 litres per shrub; and 5 litres per linear metre of hedging during April to September unless ample rainfall renders this unnecessary. These rates should be increased during any long dry spells.

Mulch

Once a year for the establishment period (first 2-3 years), the bark mulch will be topped up to restore the 100mm depth covering.

Trees

Once per growing season there will be a check for and pruning back of any damaged, diseased, and badly formed branches or branches causing obstructions or other interference. All such pruning operations will be carried out in accordance with the recommendations contained in BS3998. After three years all tree support stakes, ties and protective guards shall be carefully removed and disposed of off-site.

Hedges

At the end of each growing season during establishment hedges will be pruned back by half the growth of that year until the desired height and width are achieved. Thereafter the hedges will be pruned as a when necessary to maintain the desired form (at least once per growing season).

Shrubs

During the establishment period (first 2-3 years) formative pruning of the shrubs will be carried out where necessary to promote good shape, dense growth and repair damaged branches. Each growing season thereafter any damaged, diseased, and badly formed stems or branches causing obstructions or other interference shall be pruned off. Also, every third year or so, the shrub areas should be pruned back hard, as necessary to maintain healthy vigour and appropriate form.



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SUPPORT SERVICES

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PLANT SCHEDULE

Trees				
Qty	Species	Specification	Height	Girth
2	<i>Crataegus prunifolia</i>	Standard	200-300cm	8-10cm
Total : 2 No.				
Conifers				
No.	Species	Specification	Height	Pot Size
2	<i>Pinus nigra maritima</i>	CG	150-175cm	45L
Total : 2 No.				
Shrubs				
Qty	Species	Pot Size	Density	
28	<i>Cytisus x praecox 'Albus'</i>	3L	3/m ²	
181	<i>Lonicera pileata</i>	3L	3/m ²	
92	<i>Rubus tricolor</i>	2L	3/m ²	
Total : 301 No.				
Formal hedging plants				
Qty	Species	Specification	Height	
178	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Bare root transplant	45-60cm	
Total : 178 No.				

