

Specification: Planting and Maintenance

Project: Lovell House

Revision: -

1st July 2019

A. Planting Specification

- Soil for planting will be moist, friable, and not waterlogged or frozen.
- Planting will be carried out while soil and weather conditions are suitable.
- Container grown plants to be planted at any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable. Otherwise deciduous trees and shrubs to be planted between late October and late March. Conifers and evergreens to be planted September/October or March/April.
- Mechanical tools not to be used within 100mm of plant stems.
- Watering to be carried out as necessary to ensure establishment and continued thriving of planting. Full depth of topsoil to be irrigated evenly without damaging or displacing plants or soil. If water supply is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation, planting is not to be carried out until instructed.
- All planting and mulching materials to be free from toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life. Contractor to submit certification of source, analysis, suitability for purpose and absence of harmful substances.
- All plants and trees to be supplied in accordance with the National Plant Specification. They will be materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy, vigorous, of good shape and without elongated shoots. They will be grown in a suitable environment and hardened off to ensure hardiness. They will be free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders. Budded or grafted plants will be bottom worked. All Root systems will be balanced with branch systems. Species will be true to name. Plants and trees will be of British origin/provenance, as defined in the National Plant Specification.
- Container grown plants and trees will be supplied in a growing medium to provide adequate nutrients to thrive until permanently planted. Plants will be centred in containers, firmed and well-watered. Root growth will be substantially filling containers, but not root bound, and in a condition conducive to successful transplanting. Plants will be grown in the open for at least two months before being supplied. Containers will have holes adequate for drainage when placed on any substrate commonly used under irrigation systems.
- All plants and trees, or group of a single species, will be supplied with labelling for delivery to site showing full botanical name, total number, number of bundles, Supplier's name, Employer's name, project reference and plant specification in accordance with NPS categories.
- Plants to be handled, stored, transported and planted in accordance with the HTA's 'Handling and establishing landscape plants'. Plants will be protected from frost. Plants will be handled with care and protected from mechanical damage or shock. Plants will be adequately packaged and protected during transportation from source to site. Plant packaging will be of a type recommended for the plant being supplied. Packaging of bulk quantities will be pallets or bins sealed with polyethylene and shrink wrapped. Storage of plants will be minimised by arranging for planting immediately after each planting pit is prepared. Plants will be stored in a secure place, protected from site operations and over-exposure to adverse weather conditions. Plants will be planted upright or well-balanced with the best side to the front.
- All surplus material after planting will be removed.

B. Topsoil

- Imported topsoil to be used where existing topsoil on site is deficient and requires topping up.
- Imported topsoil to comply with BS3882. Classification to be Multipurpose. Source to be confirmed by Contractor.
- All material to be free of pests, disease and fungus.
- All material to be free of fragments and roots of aggressive weeds, sticks, straw, subsoil, pieces of brick, concrete, glass, wire, large lumps of clay or vegetation, or any similar foreign matter.
- All growing media to be free of materials which are corrosive, explosive, flammable, hazardous to human or animal life, or detrimental to healthy plant growth.
- Give notice if any evidence or symptoms of soil contamination are discovered on the site or in imported material.
- Peat and products containing peat are not permitted.
- Topsoil analysis to be submitted by Contractor in accordance with BS3882, to include chemical analysis, contaminants, maximum stone content, stone size, pH value, textural classification, and phytotoxic and CLEA elements.
- Contractor to submit documentation for imported topsoil at handover, to include description of soil components, record of source for all soil components, record drawings showing location and depth of all soils by type and grade, and topsoil analysis.
- Any topsoil storage heaps are to be a maximum 1m high and 2m wide. Other materials are not to be placed on top of storage heaps. Construction plant are not to be allowed to pass over storage heaps. Compaction and contamination are to be prevented using fencing and covering as appropriate.
- Compacted topsoil to be broken up to full depth. Topsoil to be loosened and aerated to a tilth suitable for blade grading, to a depth of 150mm and a maximum particle size of 2-8mm. To be carried out within a few days before planting when weather and ground conditions are suitably dry. Surface to be left regular and even. All undesirable material to be removed, including visible weeds, roots and large stones exceeding 50mm.
- Topsoil to be graded into smooth and flowing contours with falls for adequate drainage and no hollows or ridges. Grading to be carried out when soil is reasonably dry and workable. Contractor to give notice if required levels cannot be achieved by movement of existing soil.
- Topsoil to be handled in the driest conditions possible, not after or during heavy rainfall or when it is wetter than the plastic limit less 3% (to BS1377). Contractor to obtain instructions before moving topsoil with aggressive weeds. Contractor to select and use plant to minimise disturbance, trafficking and compaction. Topsoil not to be mixed with subsoil, stone, hardcore, rubbish, material from demolition work, or other grades of topsoil. Contractor to keep multiple handling to a minimum and use or stockpile topsoil immediately after stripping.
- Topsoil to be spread after removal of all temporary roads and surfacing. Topsoil to be spread in layers of maximum 150mm deep. Each layer to be gently firmed before spreading the next. Depth of topsoil to be 150mm for grass areas and 450mm for ornamental planting and trees. Topsoil not to be compacted allowing for a friable texture of separate visible crumb where possible.

C. Planting Maintenance

- Planting will be maintained in accordance with the agreed landscape maintenance schedule to ensure plants survive and thrive.
- Plants that have failed to thrive will be replaced with equivalent plants to match original specification. This will be carried out within 8 weeks or as soon as practical during the next suitable planting season.
- All planting areas to be maintained weed free. Planted areas to be forked over as necessary to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Depth of mulch to be retained. Loosened soil around shrubs to be gently firmed. Leaning shrubs to be straightened.
- Suitable slow release fertilizer will be applied to plants in March or April, as per manufacturer's instructions. Fertiliser to be evenly spread, carefully incorporating below mulch materials.
- Plants will be pruned to promote healthy growth and natural shape. Dead, dying, diseased wood will be removed. Plants will be pruned in accordance with BS7370-4.
- Plants will be watered to the full depth of topsoil at a frequency to ensure the continued thriving of all plants.
- Final mulching to be carried out at the end of the maintenance period. Soil to be thoroughly moistened prior to re-mulching.