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Ickenham
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UB10 8DR

SPECIFICATION OF PLANTING AND CULTIVATION WORKS

SCOPE OF WORKS

- a. Minor subsoil filing to make up levels beneath topsoil.
- b. Importation and spreading topsoil.
- c. Cultivation of topsoil and digging tree pits prior to planting.
- d. Preparation of topsoil and grass seeding.
- e. Supply and planting of shrubs
- f. Maintenance up to Practical Completion for all planted and grassed areas.
- g. A period of 5 year maintenance after Practical Completion for all planted and grassed areas.

1. EXCAVATION AND EARTHWORKS MATERIALS

SUBSOIL

Subsoil from on site storage stockpiles shall be used for making up levels below planted and grassed areas. It shall be material which is entirely compatible as fill material below topsoil.

The subsoil must not consist of any elements, chemicals or components which may threaten the integrity of any plant life.

It must be reasonably free draining and free from deleterious material, brick, concrete and other materials.

TOPSOIL

Imported topsoil shall be a suitable medium for growing the ordinary range of cultivated plants under satisfactory conditions of management. A manufactured or composite screened topsoil would not normally be acceptable in any circumstances. The top soil should be free of weed seeds and all pernicious weeds and roots. It shall be free from sticks, subsoil, non-soil material, brick and building materials, foreign matter and chemical contamination.

The imported topsoil shall comply with BS3882 (2015). Topsoil will not be allowed on site until the relevant test certificates have been furnished by the Trade Contractor.

2. EXCAVATION AND EARTHWORKS WORKMANSHIP

GENERAL FORMATION LEVELS (minimum)

Establish general formation levels over the site prior to undertaking any landscape work.

- a. 450mm under planted areas
- b. 300mm under ground cover
- c. 150mm under grass areas

The final accurate formation levels are to be approved by the Main Contractor prior to the retrieval from storage stockpiles and spreading of topsoil by the Landscape Contractor.

EXCAVATION AND CULTIVATION

The following areas shall be set out and approved prior to topsoil spread:

- a. Grassed Areas
- b. Planting Areas
- c. Tree Pits: Tree positions shall be set out using light stakes or canes.

All contaminated subsoil (typical contaminants; diesel, petrol, oil, cement) below the excavated depths shall be completely removed to an agreed stockpile and replaced with on-site subsoil.

The sub-grade, shall be well broken up/ripped to a minimum depth of 225mm just prior to the application of topsoil.

All stones over 50mm, tree roots, rubbish and rubble brought to the surface during cultivation shall be removed to a tip on site identified by the Main Contractor. The sub-grade cultivation shall be approved before top soiling commences.

TOPSOIL

LEVELS

Finished topsoil levels shall generally be 25mm above adjacent paving, manholes etc. Between level indicators the levels shall be such that the finished surface shall be to smooth or even falls, or gently curved. Generally, unless indicated otherwise, topsoil shall be spread to achieve a tolerance of \pm 50mm after final grading.

SPREADING AND HANDLING TOPSOIL

The topsoil shall be spread over cultivated subsoil in layers not exceeding 225mm and each layer shall be firmed before proceeding.

Organic matter shall be thoroughly rotovated into the first layer before proceeding to the next in planted areas where existing topsoil to be used.

Topsoil shall be spread so that, duly consolidated, it forms a continuous blanket of not less than:

- a. 450mm deep for planting areas
- b. 300mm for Ground covers
- c. 150mm deep for grass areas

Topsoil shall not be handled and spread during wet weather or when the soil is wet, as the soil structure might be damaged by so doing.

The top soiling shall be approved by the Main Contractor before proceeding with the planting operations.

Any topsoil contaminated by subsoil, rubbish, oil or oil based products or other material toxic or harmful to plant life shall be disposed of off site, and the excavated material made good with approved topsoil.

If, after the application of any layer of topsoil, the topsoil is found to be unduly compacted as a result of prolonged operational traffic or from working under unfavourable weather conditions, it should be loosened to the full depth by operations of a rotovator or other equipment approved by the Main Contractor.

All topsoil shall be maintained weed free by cultivation and/or by application of appropriate weed killer during any fallow period between top soiling and planting/grassing.

3. PLANT MATERIAL/ HANDLING

PLANTS

Plants shall be planted within 24 hours of their arrival on site unless approval not to do so has been obtained from the Main Contractor.

The Landscape Contractor shall give not less than seven days notice to the Main Contractor of the date upon which plants shall be delivered to the site, and shall allow for the Main Contractor to check that those plants delivered to site were those selected in the nursery. Any requirement for storage of stock and materials on site is to be arranged with the Main Contractor at time of tender.

Where containerised plants cannot be planted within 24 hours of their arrival on site the Landscape Contractor shall allow for the temporary removal from their crates so that they do not spoil and do not dry out. Plants shall be lined out on a well drained surface and be maintained until such time as they can be planted in their final positions.

The Landscape Contractor shall give 48 hours notice to the Main Contractor of his intention to start and require approval of any of the following operations.

- Setting out of trees
- Planting trees
- Planting shrubs
- Planting herbaceous/perennials
- Planting bulbs
- Maintenance visits

All planting work shall be carried out to meet the contract completion date and shall take place in the planting season which is normally between October and March.

Planting operations shall be suspended in periods of drought, and when the soil is frost bound or waterlogged. In the event of planting taking place during prolonged hot and dry conditions, the Landscape Trade Contractor shall ensure that the plants are well watered.

All planting areas shall have all weeds killed prior to planting. Follow the instructions on the weed killer package, as some could stay in the soil for several weeks.

After planting all planted areas shall be watered to field capacity. Where there is a risk of frost within 24 hours watering shall be suspended until such risk has passed. Any subsequent reduction in soil levels due to watering shall be made good immediately.

Bark mulch shall be spread to 50mm (lightly consolidated) depth over all planted areas. Mulching shall take place with wet mulch when the soil is moist, just after planting and watering.

GRASS

CULTIVATION

No fertiliser, no weed killer and no manure should not be applied to the area to be seeded. The area is to be rotovated to level the surface.

Bar levels or other machinery which may cause excessive or uneven compaction shall not be used. Any areas which have been over compacted shall be forked over and worked until a suitable bed is produced.

Final grading is to be carried out to ensure true specified level and slope and to avoid dishing or other depressions where water may collect.

All surplus vegetable matter, weeds, rubbish and surface stones having any dimension greater than 30mm shall be collected and removed from site.

SOWING/ ESTABLISHMENT

Sow during February to May and August or September, at a rate of 50g/m². Seed mixture should be remixed prior to sowing. Ensure that an even spread is sown and that the specified rate is achieved. After sowing the area should be rolled with a Cambridge roll to incorporate the seeds into the surface. Irrigate with a fine spray. Keep well watered. Once blade leaf growth reaches 35-45mm, roll the surface to anchor the roots of the new shots. Mow the lawn, removing no more than 25% of the leaf blade length. Remove arisings while cutting.

NOTE:

For landscape maintenance after this phase, please refer to the Landscape Management and Ongoing Maintenance Plan.