



ROSEBANK

SOFT LANDSCAPING IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES

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Project: 28 Nicholas Way, Northwood, HA6 2TT

TOPSOILING

1.0. GRADING SUBSOIL

- 1.1. General: Grade to smooth flowing contours to achieve specified finished levels of topsoil.
- 1.2. Areas of thicker topsoil: Excavate locally.

2.0. SUBSOIL SURFACE PREPARATION

- 2.1. General: Excavate and/ or place fill to required profiles and levels
- 2.2 Loosening:
 - Light and noncohesive subsoils: When ground conditions are reasonably dry, loosen thoroughly to a depth of 300 mm.
 - Stiff clay and cohesive subsoils: When ground conditions are reasonably dry, loosen thoroughly to a depth of 450 mm.
 - Rock and chalk subgrades: Lightly scarify to promote free drainage.
 - Stones: Immediately before spreading topsoil, remove stones larger than 50mm.
 - Other items: Remove arisings, contaminants and debris

3.0 INSPECTING FORMATIONS

- 3.1 Give notice: Before spreading topsoil for planting beds. Notice period: 7 days.

4.0 TOPSOIL ANALYSIS

- 4.1 Soil to be analysed: Imported topsoil. Samples: Collect in accordance with BS 3882, Annex A.
- 4.2 Submit originals of:
 - Declaration of analysis of soil in accordance with BS 3882 figure 3
 - Report detailing soil analyst's recommendations.

5.0 IMPORTED TOPSOIL (TO BS 3882)

5.1 Quantity: Provide as necessary to make up any deficiency of topsoil existing on site and to complete the work.

5.2 Additional analyses: As Clause 4.0. Other requirements: As Clause 4.0

6.0. CONTAMINATION

6.1. General: Do not use topsoil contaminated with subsoil, rubbish or other materials that are:

- Corrosive, explosive or flammable.
- Hazardous to human or animal life.
- Detrimental to healthy plant growth.

6.2. Subsoil: In areas to receive topsoil, do not use subsoil contaminated with the above materials. Give notice: If any evidence or symptoms of soil contamination are discovered on the site, or in topsoil to be imported.

7.0. SPREADING TOPSOIL

7.1. Temporary roads/surfacing: Remove before spreading topsoil.

7.2. Layers: Depth (maximum): 150 mm. Gently firm each layer before spreading the next.

7.3. Depths after firming and settlement (minimum): 450 mm for shrub beds or 150mm for grass areas - no topsoil to be spread in areas of wild flower seeding

7.4. Crumb structure: Do not compact topsoil. Preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs wherever possible.

8.0. FINISHED LEVELS OF TOPSOIL AFTER SETTLEMENT

8.1

- Above adjoining paving or kerbs: 20 mm.
- Below dpc of adjoining buildings: Not less than 150 mm.
- Shrub areas: Higher than adjoining grass areas by 25mm.
- Within root spread of existing trees: Unchanged.
- Adjoining soil areas: Marry in.
- Thickness of turf or mulch: Included.

PLANTING

9.0. SOIL CONDITIONS

9.1. Soil for cultivating and planting: Moist, friable and (excepting aquatic/ marginal planting) not waterlogged.

9.2. Frozen or snow covered soil: Give notice before planting. Provide additional root protection. Prevent planting pit sides and bases and backfill materials from freezing.

10.0. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

10.1. General: Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable. Do not plant during periods of frost or strong winds.

11.0. TIMES OF YEAR FOR PLANTING

11.1. Deciduous trees and shrubs: Late October to late March.

11.2. Conifers and evergreens: September/ October or April/ May.

11.3. Herbaceous plants (including aquatic and marginal): September/ October or March/ April.

11.4. Container grown plants: At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable.

11.5. Ensure that adequate watering and weed control is provided.

11.6. Dried bulbs, corms and tubers: September/ October.

- Colchicum (crocus): July/ August.
- Green bulbs: After flowering in spring.

12.0. MECHANICAL TOOLS

12.1. Restrictions: Do not use within 100 mm of tree and plant stems.

13.0. WATERING

13.1.

- Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
- Application: Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
- Frequency: As necessary to ensure establishment and continued thriving of planting.

14.0. WATER RESTRICTIONS

14.1. General: If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation, do not carry out planting until instructed. If planting has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering.

15.0. PREPARATION, PLANTING AND MULCHING MATERIALS

15.1. General: Free from toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life.

15.2. Certification: Submit a certificate giving supply source, content analysis, confirmation of suitability for purpose and confirmation of absence of harmful substances.

- Certified materials: Manufactured planting media and Imported composts
- Give notice before ordering or using.

16.0. PLANTS/ TREES - GENERAL

16.1.

- Condition: Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous.
- Appearance: Of good shape and without elongated shoots.
- Hardiness: Grown in a suitable environment and hardened off.
- Health: Free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders.
- Budded or grafted plants: Bottom worked.
- Root system and condition: To requirements of The National Plant Specification and balanced with branch system.
- Species: True to name.

16.2.

- Origin/ Provenance: Grown in the United Kingdom for at least one growing season, unless otherwise approved
- Origin and Provenance have the meaning given in the National Plant Specification.

17.0. CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS/ TREES

17.1.

- Growing medium: With adequate nutrients for plants to thrive until permanently planted.
- Plants: Centred in containers, firmed and well watered.
- Root growth: Substantially filling containers, but not root bound, and in a condition conducive to successful transplanting.
- Hardiness: Grown in the open for at least two months before being supplied.
- Containers: With holes adequate for drainage when placed on any substrate commonly used under irrigation systems.

18.0. SUPPLY OF PLANTS/ TREES

18.1. Plant supply shall be obtained from a nursery that are members of the Horticultural Trades Association Nursery Certification Scheme and approved by the project landscape designer.

19.0. PLANTS/ TREES RESERVED AT SUPPLIER'S PREMISES

19.1.

- Types/ Species: As schedule
- Predelivery inspection: Give notice.
- Labelling: Identify inspected plants/ trees as reserved for use on this project.

20.0. PLANT/ TREE SUBSTITUTION

20.1. Plants/ trees unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at time of ordering:

Submit alternatives, stating:

- Price.
- Difference from specified plants/ trees.

20.2. Further alternatives: Proposed substitutions may not be acceptable and submission of further alternatives may be required. Obtain approval before making any substitution.

21.0. PLANT/ TREE HANDLING, STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

21.1.

- Standard: To HTA 'Handling and establishing landscape plants' (obtainable from the Horticultural Trades Association) Part I, Part II and Part III, paragraphs 1.3.3 to 1.3.6, 3.0, and 4.0.
- Frost: Protect plants/ trees from frost.
- Handling: Handle plants/ trees with care. Protect from mechanical damage and do not subject to shock, e.g. by dropping from a vehicle.
- Plant packaging: Coextruded polyethylene bags with black interior and white exterior
- Packaging of bulk quantities: Pallets or bins sealed with polyethylene and shrink wrapped

22.0. PLANTING GENERALLY

22.1. Plant handling and planting operations shall be undertaken in accordance with Horticultural Trades Association "Handling and Establishing Landscape Plants" (Parts I - III)

22.2. Topsoil for the landscape planting works shall be obtained from site material and imported soils to make up any deficiency.

22.3. Imported topsoil shall be fertile with maximum 35% clay content and 5% minimum organic content, pH levels between 5.8 - 7.5 and free of perennial weeds, weed seeds and contamination. Existing soil to be ameliorated and/or screened, if necessary, to achieve this specification.

22.4. Imported topsoil shall be to BS3882: Multi Purpose Grade, from an approved local source and to accord with the above specification

23.0. HERBICIDE

23.1. General: Prevent weeds from seeding and perennial weeds from becoming established, by applying a suitable herbicide. Delay cultivation as recommended by manufacturer.

24.0. GENERAL FERTILIZER

24.1.

- Product reference: In accordance with soil report
- Application: Spread evenly.
- Timing: Immediately before cultivation.
- Coverage: in accordance with soil report

25.0. SOIL AMELIORANT/ CONDITIONER

25.1.

- Type: In accordance with soil report
- Coverage: In accordance with soil report
- Timing: Apply prior to cultivation.

26.0. CULTIVATION

26.1.

- Compacted topsoil: Break up to full depth.
- Cultivation: Loosen, aerate and break up soil into particles of 2-8 mm.
- Depth: Top 350 mm of planting beds.

- Timing: Within a few days before planting.
- Weather and ground conditions: Suitably dry.
- Surface: Leave regular and even.
- Levels: Within 25 mm of levels specified on drawings.

26.2. Undesirable material brought to the surface: Remove, including weeds, roots, stones and clods larger than 50 mm in any dimension, tufts of grass and foreign matter. Soil within root spread of trees and shrubs to be retained: Do not dig or cultivate.

27.0. PLANTING SHRUBS/ HERBACEOUS PLANTS/ BULBS

27.1. SHRUB PLANTING PITS

- Timing: Excavate 2 days (maximum) before planting.
- Sizes: 150 mm wider than roots when fully spread and 300 mm deep
- Pit bottom improvement
- Break up to a depth of 150 mm, incorporating 25 g of approved slow release fertilizer per planting pit.
- Backfilling material: As clause 27.3.

27.2. FORMAL HEDGES

- Shrubs for hedges: Consistent in species, cultivar and clone to ensure a uniform hedge.
- Planting: In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly.

27.3. BACKFILLING MATERIAL

- Composition: Previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required, together with:
 - Ameliorant/ Conditioner: Mushroom compost
 - Coverage: 1 m³ per 10 m³ of topsoil
 - Fertilizer: Slow release
 - Coverage: To suit soil report recommendations

27.4. AFTER PLANTING

- Watering: Immediately after planting, thoroughly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
- Firming: Lightly firm soil around plants and fork and/ or rake soil, without damaging roots, to a fine tilth with gentle cambers and no hollows.
- Top dressing: Sanitised and stabilized compost as clause 358, 50 mm thick

27.5. MULCHING PLANTING BEDS

- Material: Medium grade bark mulch
- Purity: Free of pests, disease, fungus and weeds.
- Preparation: Clear all weeds. Water soil thoroughly.
- Coverage: 75 mm thick
- Finished level of mulch: 30 mm below adjacent grassed or paved areas

28.0. PLANTING TREES

28.1. TREE PITS

- Sizes: 1200 mm diameter x 800 mm deep for extra heavy standard
- Sloping ground: Maintain horizontal bases and vertical sides with no less than minimum depth throughout.
- Pit bottoms: With slightly raised centre. Break up to a depth of 200 mm
- Pit sides: Scarify.
- Additional requirements: Incorporate approved slow release fertilizer at 40g per m², worked into pit bottoms
- Backfilling material: As clause 586

- Accessories: Root barriers as clause 510 and double tree staking

28.2 TREE PIT ROOT BARRIERS

- Locations: Trees within 2m of underground service or trees located within hard surface
- Manufacturer: Greenleaf or similar
- Depth of top of root barrier below finished soil level: 75 mm
- Installation: With sides vertical.

28.3. TREE PIT ACCESSORIES

- Manufacturer: Greenleaf or similar
- Type: Perforated plastics irrigation pipe system, 50 mm diameter, in circle above and around sides of rootball, with stainless steel caps (if required)
- Tree anchoring systems – Platipus or similar approved manufacturer – used where required

28.4. STAKING TO TREES

- Stakes: Softwood, peeled chestnut, larch or oak, straight, free from projections and large or edge knots and with pointed lower end.
- Preservative treatment: Not required
- Nails: To BS 1202-1, galvanized, minimum 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads.
- Minimum stake sizes: 75mm dia.
- Staking: Drive stakes vertically at least 300 mm into bottom of pit on either side of tree position before planting. Consolidate material around stakes during backfilling.
- Height of stakes: Cut to approximately 600 mm above ground level.
- Cross bar: Wood, as stake. Firmly fix on windward side of tree and as close as possible to stem.
- Ties: Adjustable cushioned ties
- Tying: Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to cross bar.

28.5. BACKFILLING MATERIAL TO TREES WITHIN LANDSCAPE BEDS OR LAWNS

- Composition: Previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required, together with:
 - Ameliorant/ Conditioner: Mushroom compost
 - Coverage: To soil report recommendations
 - Fertilizer: Slow release
 - Coverage: To suit soil report recommendations