

**NOTE:** These implementation and maintenance guidelines are for planning purposes only to indicate the level of workmanship to be specified and do not constitute a detailed specification.

## 1. GENERAL

- 1.1 All landscape operatives will be appropriately trained, certified and qualified to undertake the tasks required. When required, the relevant certificates will be made available for inspection. All work is to be carried out in accordance with the relevant British Standards, Codes of Practice and Legislation.
- 1.2 All plants will conform to BS 3936 (1992) and be in accordance with the National Plant Specification. Supplying nurseries will be registered under the HTA Nursery Certification Scheme. All plants will be packed and transported in accordance with the Code of Practice for Plant Handling as produced by CPSE.
- 1.3 Planting will not be carried out when the ground is waterlogged, frost bound or during periods of cold drying winds. All bare-root planting stock will be kept covered until actually planted in order to minimise water-loss and prevent the roots from drying out. Tree handling, storage and planting shall be in accordance with BS 8545 Chapters 9 to 10 and Annexes E to F.
- 1.4 The landscape contractor shall maintain all areas of new planting for a period of 12 months following practical completion. All stock deemed to be dead, dying or diseased within the defects period shall be replaced by the contractor at his own cost.
- 1.5 All bare-root planting stock will be root dipped in an approved water-retaining polymer.
- 1.6 If the formation level is compacted it should be ripped through before topsoiling. Recommended topsoil depths are 450mm for shrubs and 150mm for grass.

## 2. TREE PLANTING

### Ground Preparation and Tree Pit Excavation

- 2.1 If the formation level is compacted it will be ripped through before topsoiling.
- 2.2 Where necessary existing weeds will be treated with a suitable glyphosate-based herbicide and a suitable period allowed to elapse, as recommended by the manufacturer, for the herbicide to take effect.
- 2.3 Tree pits of at least 75mm diameter greater than the root system and no deeper than the rootball /container depth are to be excavated and the sides well scarified to prevent smearing. All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm in any dimension shall be removed from site.
- 2.4 During excavation of the pit, the soil dug should be placed to one side separating topsoil and subsoil as far as is practical.

### Tree Planting

- 2.5 Trees shall be planted as per the planting arrangement as set out in the plant schedule on the relevant drawing.
- 2.6 Unless otherwise specified, the typical rooting depth for trees is 900mm. The first 300mm shall be made up of topsoil; it shall be ensured that a suitable topsoil/subsoil provides the remainder of the minimum rooting depth.
- 2.7 The root system of the tree should be wetted prior to planting. The tree should be planted at the correct depth taking into account the position of the root flare and the finished level - the rootball or root stem transition should be level with the existing host soil or surface. The base of the rootball should typically sit on subsoil, for larger rootballs the subsoil will sit around the lower portion of the rootball.
- 2.8 Tree pits should be backfilled with the excavated topsoil, if the original topsoil is not available or deemed unsuitable, a multi-purpose topsoil should be used. Any subsoil excavated should be discarded and the subsoil depth (beyond 300mm deep) backfilled with a high sand content subsoil. Backfill should be added gradually, in layers of 150mm to 230mm depth, ensuring the tree is held upright. At each stage the fill should be firmed in to eliminate all air pockets under and around the root system, but with care being taken not to excessively compact the soil. The final layer should not be consolidated.
- 2.9 A general-purpose slow release fertiliser (at the rate of 75g/m<sup>2</sup>) and Tree Planting and Mulching Compost (at the rate of 20 litres/m<sup>2</sup>) are to be incorporated into the top 150mm of topsoil during final cultivations.
- 2.10 All rootball trees are to be installed using a rootball fixing system such as Platipus tree anchor or similar approved. Installed to the manufacturers recommendations. Selected standard and half standard trees are to be single

staked with a 75mm dia stake. All trees including and above extra heavy standard size are to be double staked, (unless rootball - see above para 2.10).

- 2.11 Stakes should be driven at least 300mm into undisturbed ground before planting the tree, taking care to avoid underground services and cables etc. and should typically be one third the height of the tree stem above ground.
- 2.12 Trees shall be secured to stakes with suitable proprietary rubber tree ties and spacers.
- 2.13 All selected standard trees will be protected from rabbit and deer damage by fitting appropriate tree guards.
- 2.14 Immediately after planting, but before applying the below bark mulch, all trees should be saturated to field capacity.
- 2.15 Ornamental composted bark mulch will be spread to a depth of 75mm across a 1.0m dia circle around individual trees, ensuring that the root flare and base of the stem, along with any ground cover plants, are not buried.

## 3. SHRUB/HERBACEOUS PLANTING

- 3.1 Shrubs/herbaceous plants are to be set out as shown on the drawing and pit planted into the prepared soil at the specified densities with minimal disturbance to the rootball and well firmed in.
- 3.2 Recommended rooting depths are 600mm for shrubs/herbaceous plants. Multi-purpose topsoil depths shall be 300mm for shrubs/herbaceous, ensuring that a suitable subsoil shall provide the remainder of the minimum rooting depth. Before receiving topsoil, subsoils should be loosened using ripping equipment, this shall be done when the subsoil is dry to encourage soil shattering. All stones and other objects larger than 50 mm shall be removed from the prepared surface
- 3.3 Within the day of planting shrub/herbaceous plants should be saturated to field capacity, this shall be done before applying the below bark mulch.
- 3.4 Spread ornamental pine bark mulch to a depth of 75mm across all new planted areas, taking care not to bury groundcover plants.

## 4. HEDGE PLANTING

### Ground Preparation

- 4.1 Where necessary existing weeds will be treated with a glyphosate-based herbicide and a suitable period allowed to elapse, as recommended by the manufacturer, for the herbicide to take effect.
- 4.2 All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm diameter will be removed from site to a registered waste disposal facility.

### Planting

- 4.3 The planting arrangement shall be as set out in the plant schedule on the relevant planting plan.
- 4.4 Container-grown hedge plants will be planted into a pit dug 1.5x the diameter of the root mass, with the bottom and sides of the planting pit broken up to aid root expansion. The plants will be planted so that the root collar is exactly level with the ground surface.
- 4.5 Shrubs and hedges are to be set out as shown on the drawing and pit planted into the prepared soil at the specified centres with minimal disturbance to the rootball and well firmed in. Spread ornamental pine bark mulch to a depth of 75mm across all new planting areas, ensuring groundcover plants are not buried.
- 4.6 All container-grown shrubs will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 600mm plastic shrub shelters, supported with 0.9m x 32 mm x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.

### Maintenance during first growing season

- 4.7 All dead, dying or diseased plants will be replaced with trees of similar size and species. If the failure of the tree is due to disease and the disease is considered likely to re-occur then an alternative species may be used as replacement if agreed with the LPA.
- 4.8 The planting area will be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period using approved herbicides in April, June and August.

## 5. MAINTENANCE OF ALL TREES AND SHRUBS

- 5.1 In the autumn following planting the CA/landscape contractor will prepare a list of all trees and shrubs which are dead, dying or diseased and are to be replaced

during the following planting season. All stock deemed to be dead, dying or diseased within the defects period shall be replaced by the contractor at his own cost.

- 5.2 For a period of not less than 5 years, the site is to be visited four times per month at regular intervals between October and March to undertake the following operations:

- Weed clearance: All tree pits and shrub areas are to be kept weed free by hand weeding or herbicide treatment. The bark mulch shall be topped up at least once annually.
- Litter clearance: All litter is to be removed from tree planting areas.
- Checking trees: All tree ties and stakes are to be checked and adjusted if too loose, too tight or if chaffing is occurring. Any broken stakes are to be replaced. All grilles, grids and guards shall be checked at least once annually, where no longer necessary or physically damaging the tree these should be removed.
- Formative pruning: Any damaged shoots/branches are to be pruned back to healthy wood. Trees are to be pruned in accordance with good horticultural practice (BS 3998) to maintain healthy well-shaped specimens which are appropriately shaped for their circumstances.

- 5.3 The site is to be visited at regular intervals during the growing season between April and October to undertake the following operations:

- Watering: During the first year of establishment all shrubs are to be watered to saturation at field capacity once per month and additionally following any dry periods of 7 days. The trees require 10L every two days in early spring, increasing to 25L of water every 2 days during July/August. Then gradually decreasing again to 10L per day by the end of leaf fall in the autumn.

## 6. AMENITY GRASS

### Preparation

- 6.1 Areas to be seeded shall be sprayed out with a glyphosate herbicide and cultivated to a depth of 100mm removing all weeds, debris and stones over 25mm diameter. The surface shall be raked to smooth flowing contours with a fine tilth. Amenity grass areas will receive pre-seeding fertiliser at 70g/m<sup>2</sup>.

- 6.2 The minimum overall recommended rooting depth for grass is 450mm, the first 150mm shall be made up of a multi-purpose topsoil, it shall be ensured that a suitable subsoil shall provide the remainder of the minimum rooting depth. All stones and other objects larger than 50 mm shall be removed from the prepared surface.

### Seeding

- 6.3 Grass seed shall be sown in accordance with BS 4428 (1989) either in April/May or September/October during calm weather and not when the ground is frost bound or waterlogged. Seed shall be sown in two equal sowings in transverse directions at 4g/m<sup>2</sup>. After sowing the contractor shall lightly rake the seed into intimate contact with the soil.

### Initial Cut

- 6.4 When newly seeded amenity grass areas reach 50mm they should be lightly rolled and cut to a height of 25mm. All risings shall be removed. Any bare patches shall be made good at this time. Amenity grass shall be regularly maintained between 25 and 50mm during the first season after sowing. Long or rough mown grass will be maintained between 50 and 75mm during the first season after sowing.

## NOTE:

Specification to be read in conjunction with DWG: 09008 01 Detailed Planting Plan

Note: The original of this drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

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