STAAC
Studio 1, The Hub, 3 Drove Road, Newhaven BN9 0AD
t: 01323 325354; t: 01932 506111
e: support@staac.co.uk

Soft Landscaping

Garages off Green Walk,
Ruislip
HA4 8NL

Introduction

This comprehensive guide outlines the essential details and concrete solutions for the implementation of a thriving soft landscaping project within this specific locale. In adherence to local regulations and in recognition of the importance of native flora, our aim is to create an environmentally sustainable and visually pleasing landscape that harmonizes with the natural beauty of the region.

Within this document, you will find meticulous planning for soft landscaping, encompassing the selection of native trees, shrubs, and seeding, as well as the critical maintenance practices required to ensure the long-term health and vitality of the landscape. Our approach integrates ecological sensitivity with community involvement to foster a project that not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of Ruislip HA4 8NL but also contributes positively to its local ecosystem.

As we delve into the specifics of potting, soil preparation, and planting guidelines, we aim to provide a comprehensive resource for individuals, organizations, and professionals involved in this endeavour. By following these guidelines and recommendations, you will be equipped with the knowledge and tools necessary to undertake a soft landscaping project that will thrive and endure for years to come.

This document is a testament to our commitment to the preservation and enhancement of the natural environment, while also ensuring a visually pleasing and sustainable landscape for the enjoyment of current and future generations in Ruislip HA4 8NL.

Certainly, when selecting replacement trees, shrubs, and seeding for soft landscaping in the Ruislip HA4 8NL area, it's important to consider native and well-suited species to ensure they thrive in the local environment. Below are concrete examples of suitable native plants for replacement:

Replacement Trees:

- **English Oak (Quercus robur):** A majestic native tree that provides valuable habitat and supports local wildlife. It's well-adapted to the UK climate.
- **Silver Birch (Betula pendula):** A fast-growing, slender tree with beautiful white bark. It's a pioneer species, often found in British woodlands.
- **Wild Cherry (Prunus avium):** Known for its springtime display of white blossoms and the production of edible cherries, this tree adds aesthetic and ecological value.
- **Field Maple (Acer campestre):** A small to medium-sized tree with attractive foliage and autumn coloration. It's a native species that supports wildlife.

English Oak

Silver Birch

Field Maple

Wild Cherry

Replacement Shrubs:

Common Dogwood (Cornus sanguinea): This deciduous shrub offers vibrant red stems in winter and white flowers in spring. It's valuable for wildlife cover and food.

Hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna): A hardy native shrub with clusters of white flowers in spring and red berries in the autumn, providing food and shelter for wildlife.

Guelder Rose (Viburnum opulus): Known for its showy white flowers and bright red berries, it's a versatile native shrub that attracts birds and insects.

Blackthorn (Prunus spinosa): A deciduous shrub that produces small, dark purple sloe fruits used in beverages. It also offers dense cover for wildlife.

Common Dogwood

Hawthorn

Guelder Rose

Blackthorn

Native Seeding:

Wildflower Mix: Planting a native wildflower mix can enhance biodiversity. Species like Oxeye daisy (Leucanthemum vulgare), Meadow Cranesbill (Geranium pratense), and Red Campion (Silene dioica) are suitable.

Grasses: Incorporate native grass species such as Common Bent (Agrostis capillaris) and Crested Dog's-tail (Cynosurus cristatus) to support local ecosystems.

Clover Mix: Consider seeding with native clover species like White Clover (Trifolium repens) to improve soil health and attract pollinators.

These are just a few examples of native plants suitable for replacement in the Ruislip HA4 8NL area. Be sure to consult with local nurseries, horticulturists, or conservation organizations for specific recommendations and to ensure the selected plants are well-suited to the local soil and climate conditions. Additionally, work with a landscape architect or ecologist to create a customized planting plan that takes into account the specific needs of your soft landscaping project.

To successfully undertake the soft landscaping solutions with the native plants mentioned earlier, it's crucial to understand the potting information, soil requirements, and best practices for planting. Here are the details you need:

1. Potting Information:

Container Size: When potting native plants for eventual transplantation, choose containers that are at least 1-2 times larger than the plant's root ball to allow for root growth.

Potting Mix: Use a well-draining potting mix that replicates the native soil conditions as closely as possible. You can create a mix using components like loam, compost, and coarse sand.

Watering: Keep the potted plants consistently moist but not waterlogged. Water thoroughly when the top inch of the soil feels dry.

Fertilization: Native plants typically require less fertilizer than non-natives. Use a balanced, slow-release fertilizer sparingly, following the manufacturer's recommendations.

2. Soil Requirements:

Soil Type: Native plants often thrive in soils that are well-draining, loamy, and rich in organic matter.

Soil pH: Check the pH requirements of the specific native plants you are using. Most native plants prefer slightly acidic to neutral soil (pH 6.0 to 7.0).

Amendment: If the natural soil in the area is not ideal, you may need to amend it. Incorporate organic matter like compost to improve soil structure and fertility.

Soil Testing: It's a good practice to conduct a soil test to determine the existing pH, nutrient levels, and any potential deficiencies.

3. Planting Guidelines:

Timing: Plant trees and shrubs during the dormant season (late fall or early spring) when they are less stressed and root growth is active.

Hole Preparation: Dig holes that are at least twice the width of the root ball but no deeper. The top of the root ball should be level with or slightly above the soil surface.

Spacing: Follow the recommended spacing for each species to ensure proper growth and prevent overcrowding.

Mulching: Apply a layer of organic mulch around the base of the plants to conserve soil moisture and suppress weeds. Maintain a mulch-free area around the trunk or stems.

Watering: Water newly planted trees and shrubs deeply and consistently, especially during the first growing season. Gradually reduce watering as the plants become established.

4. Maintenance:

Pruning: Prune trees and shrubs as needed to remove dead or diseased branches and to shape the plants. Avoid excessive pruning, as native plants often have natural forms that support local wildlife.

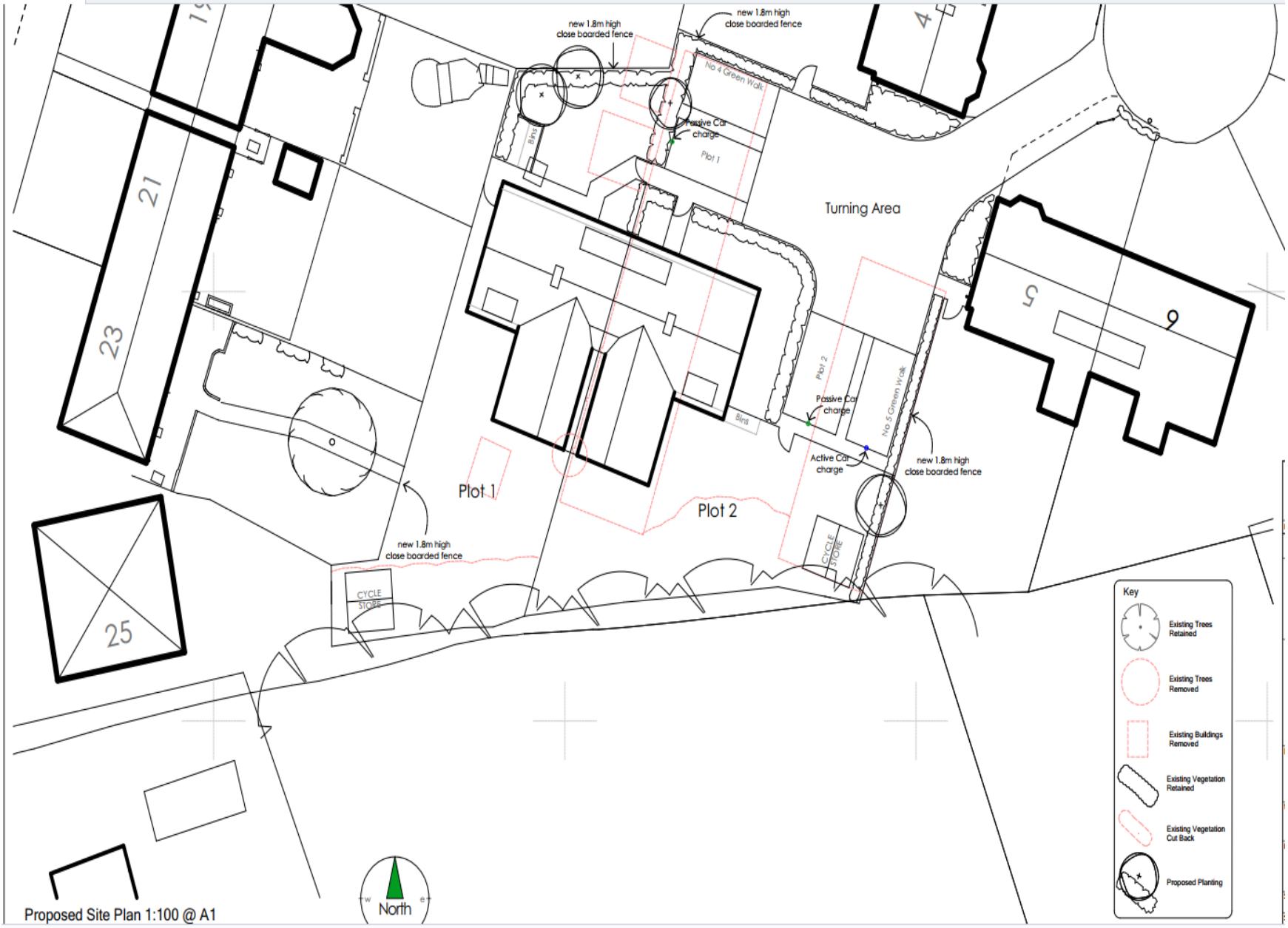
Weed Control: Regularly inspect and remove weeds to prevent competition for resources.

Pest and Disease Management: Monitor for pests and diseases and take appropriate action, when necessary, but avoid excessive chemical use to maintain ecological balance.

Mulch Refresh: Periodically replenish mulch to maintain a 2–3-inch layer.

To undertake these solutions effectively, consider seeking guidance from local horticultural experts or landscape professionals who are familiar with the specific needs of native plants in your area. Additionally, involve community members and volunteers to ensure the long-term success of your soft landscaping project.

All these measures will be implemented as shown in the Site Plan Below:


new 1.8m high close boarded fence
new 1.8m high close boarded fence
No 4 Green Walk
Passive Car charge
Bins
Plot 1
Turning Area
21
23
25
5
9
Plot 2
Passive Car charge
No 5 Green Walk
Bins
Active Car charge
new 1.8m high close boarded fence
Plot 1
Plot 2
new 1.8m high close boarded fence
CYCLE STORE
CYCLE STORE
Key
Existing Trees Retained
Existing Trees Removed
Existing Buildings Removed
Existing Vegetation Retained
Existing Vegetation Cut Back
Proposed Planting
North
Proposed Site Plan 1:100 @ A1