

#### Planting specification notes

#### **General matters**

### General care & tidiness of site and operations

During the implementation works and maintenance thereafter, all landscape operations will be carried out with care to respect the site, its occupiers and other contractors operations. In particular, all waste material will be removed from site following completion of the day's work and / or the particular element of work. Precautions will also be taken to avoid the fouling of other site structures and surfaces (including roadways, paths, parking areas and patios) with spillage of soil or other material.

### Site preparation & planting

## Topsoil stripping and stockpiling

Prior to topsoil stripping, any areas to be retained for future use will be tested in accordance with the British Standard for Topsoil - BS3882. Only topsoil that fulfils the requirements of the BS to 'General Purpose grade or can be ameliorated to give such a grade shall be stripped for storage and future use. Topsoil contaminated by waste including subsoil shall be dealt with in an appropriate manner. Topsoil shall be stripped and stored in such a way as to fulfil the requirements of the BS with topsoil heights no greater than 1.5m high with gently shelving sides.

#### Site Clearance

Site clearance within areas of retained trees or shrubs will be kept to an absolute minimum and will be restricted to the use of hand tools only in accordance with British Standard BS5837 2005: Trees in relation to Construction. Other areas to be cultivated for planting are to be cleared of all existing plant growth as well as builders rubbish and any other waste material. Bricks and stones over 50mm in any direction shall also be removed. Areas for copse plantation are to be generally cleared of any rubbish or waste material but otherwise only 1m x 1m squares are to be cleared of ground vegetation. Chemical weed control is restricted to use of a biodegradable translocated systemic herbicide applied in accordance with the COSHH regulations 1994 and the product's COSHH sheet applied by suitably trained staff.

#### Imported topsoil

Any imported topsoil shall be tested in accordance with the requirements of BS3882 for 'General Amenity Grade' prior to delivery to site. Any amelioration requirements shall be carried out as detailed.

#### Ground preparation

The preparation and final cultivation of ground ready for planting shall not take place until all adjacent building and hardworks has been completed to avoid damage to new softworks. Where this is unavoidable, adequate fenced protection will be used. Ground preparation within the vicinity of trees shall be undertaken carefully by hand using appropriate non-mechanical tools and without disturbance to roots larger than 25mm in diameter. Planting areas, including hedges, will be cultivated and leveled to achieve graded smooth flowing contours of even fine tilth. Cultivated depths will be a minimum of 450mm for shrub areas and 100mm for turf and seeded areas. The full depth of cultivated soil shall be topsoil. Where the full depth of topsoil is not achievable, the subsoil shall be ripped in two directions to provide a free draining substrata prior to the placement of the topsoil. Any areas badly affected by construction works (compaction, contamination etc.) shall be excavated to the full depth, the subsoil prepared as above and the topsoil replaced. Topsoil shall be spread in 150mm layers and gently firmed to avoid uneven settlement. The finished ground levels following firming and planting shall be no greater than 50mm below the surrounding paved and grass areas so as to produce a neat edge and allow for a basic depth of bark mulch.

## Weed control

If there is a delay between ground preparations and planting/seeding, soil areas will be cleared of any recent weed growth and any other waste material that may have strayed into the planting areas. The soil surface and any areas of compaction will be recultivated as necessary to produce a fine tilth before planting. Chemical weed control to assist in this process will be restricted to that stated above.

## Plants and plant handling

All plant material is to be of good quality stock, size in accordance with the specification and in a healthy condition: free from pest, disease and weed growth in accordance with BS3936 and HTA National Plant Specification. Any British Native species shall be of British origin, of local seed stock wherever possible and from sustainable seed sources. Plants will be handled in accordance with BS4428 and HTA code for Plant Handling and Establishment of Landscape Plants to ensure that transit, any storage, handling on site and planting operations preserve and promote the condition of the stock.

# Planting generally

For all new planting bed areas, including hedge strips, the ground will be cultivated as set out above. Well-composted farmyard manure or another approved material will then be incorporated at a rate of 50 ltrs/m2 into cultivated ground. Plants to be evenly spaced throughout allotted planting areas, as shown. Planting mixes to be laid out with species randomly distributed throughout allotted planting areas. Planting will be carried out in accordance to the HTA code stated above and into planting hole /pits slightly larger than ont enroad with eidee and hottom of nite lo ensure adequate drainage and to allow normal root growth. Digging of planting pits/holes within the spread of retained trees will be carried out with care not to damage significant tree roots and if necessary planting locations will be adjusted accordingly. Each plant will be thoroughly watered during and after planting and as necessary during the first summer season to ensure healthy growth. All bare root tree planting to be carried out only during the winter planting season between November and March.

#### Specimen Tree Planting

Tree pits will be excavated to a width and depth required to accommodate the entire root system without pruning or bending. In the case of container grown or root balled trees the planting pit will be at least 15cm wider in dimensions than the root-ball. The sides and bottom of tree pits will be loosened as necessary to ensure adequate drainage and allow normal root growth. The tree pit will be watered thoroughly prior to planting. The back fill material will be topsoil with well-composted farmyard manure at a ratio of 4:1. Tree support will be of a double stake and crossbar arrangement to avoid fouling the root-ball. The stakes will be driven firm into the base of the planting pit and will be 300-450mm high above ground. The tree will be held firm against the crossbar with a heavy-duty adjustable tie and spacer block. Following planting all trees will be thoroughly watered and then as necessary during the first summer season to ensure healthy growth. Advanced nursery stock and semi mature trees to be underground guyed using a proprietary system to ensure stability.

On completion of planting operations all shrub beds and formal hedge strips are to be spread with well-composted ornamental grade (15-75mm) bark mulch to an even thickness

#### Planting establishment

#### General statement

For the first three years after planting the following establishment works will be carried out. Thereafter annual maintenance will be carried out in accordance with the Long-Term Management Plan section.

#### Replacement planting

For the first three years following planting, at the end of each growing season, any failed, failing or missing plants will be removed and replaced with new stock in accordance with the original specification.

#### Weeding and litter

During maintenance visits there will be checks for and removal of any unsightly weeds that are competing with or growing beyond canopy of shrubs and other plants. All weed removal in planting bed areas shall simply be carried out by hand pulling and or light hoeing. Chemical weed control to assist in this process will be restricted to the use of a biodegradable translocated systemic herbicide in accordance with COSHH regulations 1994, the product's COSHH sheet and the Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986. During maintenance visits litter picking will be carried out to ensure the general tidiness and well tended appearance of the site.

#### Watering

All planting will be watered as and when necessary during dry periods to promote healthy growth and prevent plant failure.

### Top up mulch

Once a year for the first three years following planting, the bark mulch will be topped up to restore the 100mm depth covering.

## Formative pruning

From time to time during the first three years, formative pruning of the shrubs will be carried out where necessary to promote good shape, dense growth and repair damaged branches.

## Long-term landscape management plan

## General statement

The scheme is generally intended to be low maintenance, with densely planted ground covering species chosen so as to suppress most weed growth. Also appropriate species have been chosen for each situation. Only the hedge will need regular pruning to sustain neat and dense structures. Otherwise each plant should not grow too tall or spread too far for its setting. However, to reinvigorate the planting every few years a hard early spring pruning will be carried out in the main shrub areas.

The hedge will continue to be pruned back by half the season's growth until the desired height and width are achieved. Thereafter the hedge will be pruned as a when necessary to maintain the desired form (at least once per growing season). The desired hedge sizes are as follows:

## • Existing hedge - 2.5m tall x 1m wide

Once per growing season there will be a check for and pruning back of any problematical overhanging stems or damaged, diseased or badly formed stems from other plants. Every third year or so the shrub & ground cover areas will be pruned back hard, as necessary to maintain healthy vigour and appropriate form.

## Weeding

During maintenance visits there will be checks for and removal of any unsightly weeds that are competing with or growing beyond canopy of shrubs and other plants. All weed removal shall be simply carried out by hand pulling and or light hoeing.

During maintenance visits litter picking will be carried out to ensure the general tidiness and well tended appearance of the site.

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sheet size: A2 scale: 1:50 @ A2 01245 07763 10.09.12 drawn by: OM drawing number: OM 12.004/002 revision: