General

All trees to be planted in accordance with **BS 8545: 2014** *Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – recommendations*

Tree pits

* Tree pits shall be excavated to at least the minimum dimension for the size of tree as indicated below:
	1. Selected standard = 1200 x 1200 x 900 mm; and
	2. Heavy standard = 1500 x 1500 x 1000 mm.
* 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 to aid root penetration and pit drainage.
* Pit sides: Scarify and break up to aid root penetration.
* Backfilling material: 50:50 mix of topsoil to peat free compost to PAS100 and slow release fertiliser (to manufacturer's recommendations). Backfilling to be carried out in layers of 150 - 200mm depth, each layer firmly consolidated to eliminate air pockets.
* Accessories: Fit irrigation / ventilation tube with cap and chain to each tree.

Irrigation pipe

* During backfilling operations, install a 100mm diameter perforated UPVC flexible pipe with sealed / stoppered lower end and a removable upper cap, black colour, connected with a proprietary fixing to the pipe. Coil once around the rootball at half its depth.
* Open end to protrude 50mm above finished soil level.
* Pipe to be filled with fresh water to overflowing as required to maintain healthy growth and development.

Staking

* Stakes: To BS 4043. Softwood, peeled chestnut, larch or oak, straight, free from projections and large or edge knots and with pointed lower end.
* Preservative treatment: Pressure impregnated with timber preservative suitable for timber in ground and non-toxic to plants. Neutral colour.
* Nails: To BS 1202-1, galvanized, minimum 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads.
* Stake sizes as indicated below:
	1. Heavy standard: 100mm minimum diameter. Height above ground = 500mm. Number of stakes = 2 No.
	2. Selected standard: 75mm minimum diameter. Height above ground = 500mm. Number of stakes = 1 No.
* Staking: Drive stakes vertically into bottom of pit on either side of tree position before planting.
* Backfilling: Consolidate material around stakes.
* Firmly fix on windward side of tree and as close as possible to stem.
* Ties: Reinforced rubber buckle ties with spacers.
* Tying: Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to cross bar.

Mulching

* Material: Amenity grade bark mulch.
* Purity: Free of pests, disease, fungus and weeds.
* Preparation: Clear all weeds. Water soil thoroughly.
* Coverage: In a circular area of 500 mm radius measured from the tree stem.
* Finished level of mulch: 75 mm depth.

Edges to seeded areas adjacent to tree pits

* Timing: After seeded areas are well established.
* Edges: Clean straight lines or smooth curves.
* Mulch and soil: Draw back to permit edging.
* Arisings: Remove.
* Completion: Re-spread soil and mulch.