

LANDSCAPE TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA AND THE PRUNUS AVIUM 'PLENA' DURING FIVE YEARS

Gloucester Lodge

Rev - A

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This landscape management plan has been prepared to provide guidance on the maintenance required for the **Liquidambar styraciflua** and the **Prunus avium 'Plena'** for five years.
- 1.2 This document is designed to ensure that the integrity of both trees is sustained throughout time, to protect the investment by the client, and to perpetuate and enhance the external environment, in line with the standards that have been achieved.
- 1.3 Both tree areas are to be maintained as specified within this document and all relevant documents submitted as part of the planning application.
- 1.4 The planting of both trees and the maintenance work for both is to be carried out by competent contractors and to the highest professional standard.

2.0 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 The Contractor shall be responsible for all supervision required to ensure that the works are carried out in accordance with the specification.
- 2.2 Maintenance Operations shall be carried out during suitable conditions so as to prevent damage to both trees.
- 2.3 The Contractor shall maintain the grounds free from all spillages of fuel, materials, all excessive clippings and excessive leaf litter at all times. In addition, the Contractor shall maintain the gardens free from litter.
- 2.4 Sustainable horticultural practices are to be employed to minimise off-site ecological impacts. These include:
 - Feeding of both trees using organic based fertilisers and improving the soil structure by incorporating organic material, preferably composted municipal waste;
 - Minimising the use of pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides) to prevent cumulative fatal effects to animals via the food chain. Where use is unavoidable, non-residual chemicals should be applied.

3.0 GENERAL MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATION

- 3.1 That the grounds around both trees be fit for the purpose in every respect as a high quality. The grounds be maintained in a clean, safe, orderly and litter-free condition
- 3.2 The protection and health and safety of all people in the grounds are to be ensured at all times. The Contractor shall comply with all relevant health and safety legislation and provide evidence of so doing.
- 3.3 Water as necessary for the continued thriving of both trees. Wet the full depth of topsoil without damaging or loosen plants. Loosen or scoop out compacted topsoil to direct water to root zone.
- 3.4 If water supply is, or is likely to be, restricted by emergency legislation, submit proposals for an alternative suitable source of water. Obtain instructions before proceeding.
- 3.5 Trees that die, or are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased within five years of the development being finished must be replaced in the next planting season with trees of same of species and size.
- 3.6 Unless specified otherwise, dispose of arisings as follows: remove to recycling facility.
- 3.7 Chipping or shredding is not permitted on site.
- 3.8 Collect all extraneous rubbish and arisings relating to the maintenance of both trees from contract work and remove from site.

4.0 DETAILED MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATION

TREE PLANTING:

- 4.1 Both trees shall be watered as required to maintain healthy growth following planting, during the maintenance period and subsequently in cases of extreme drought.
- 4.2 Keep both tree understories around the roots clear of weeds by use of suitable herbicides and hand-weeding. When hand weeding, remove weeds entirely including roots. Remove the minimum quantity of soil and disturb plants and mulched surfaces as little as possible. All resultant material should be removed from site. Weeds which grow shall be spot treated with a contact systemic weed killer from the Local Authority's Approved List, applied according to the manufacturer's instruction, care being taken to ensure that no spray touches any part of the trees. At all times, the weed cover shall be less than 5% of the tree understory area and no weeds are to exceed 100mm height.
- 4.3 Where feasible, applications of a Local Authority approved residual weed killer will be permitted, applied to the manufacturer's instructions, on areas that have been cleared of all weed growth and before further germination has taken place. Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing dead material off.
- 4.4 Weeds which do grow shall be spot treated with an approved non-selective systemic weed killer, according to the manufacturer's instructions, care being taken to ensure that no spray touches any part of the trees.
- 4.5 If a chemical control is adopted, it must be noted that the surface of the ground must not be physically disturbed.
- 4.6 Maintain a weed free area around each tree, to largest of either; a 1m diameter or the surface of the original planting hole. Fork over beds to keep the soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Do not reduce the depth or effect of mulch. When trees are in leaf spray crowns during warm weather after dusk. Water as required to ensure continued thriving of plants.
- 4.7 When achieving weed control with a winter herbicide use suitable soil acting herbicide and complete before the end of March unless otherwise instructed. Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing dead material off.
- 4.8 When achieving weed control with a summer herbicide use suitable foliar acting herbicide and complete before the end of March unless otherwise instructed. Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing dead material off.
- 4.9 Both trees shall be given an application of an approved fertilizer in March or April. This should be in slow release form e.g. Enmag or similar and applied at the manufacturer's recommendation. Both trees should be top dressed with an additional mulch of peat substitute, which should contain a greater concentration of the slow release top dressing agent, at the rate of 80gm/m² or an equivalent system such as Osmacote 'Grotabs'. This should be worked lightly into the soil, without disturbing the roots, before the bark mulch is re-spread.
- 4.10 Both trees shall be regularly inspected during each maintenance visit for wind firmness and firmed as necessary at the same time. Stakes shall likewise be checked for firmness and all tree ties inspected and made good if required. Replace or secure loose or missing guy wires. Adjust wires to suit stem growth and to provide correct and uniform tension. Remove wires during spring when they are no longer required to support the trees.
- 4.11 Both trees shall be re-firmed after strong winds, frost heave and other disturbances. Re-firm by treading around the base until firmly bedded. If collars in the soil have firmed at the base of tree

stems due to tree movement, break up the collar by fork avoiding root damage. Backfill with topsoil and re-firm where necessary.

- 4.12 Adjust, re-fix or replace loose or defective shelters used to any of both trees to original specification and to prevent chafing. Remove any tree shelters on any of both trees during spring, when they are no longer needed to protect the trees.
- 4.13 Inspect and maintain irrigation/aeration system around both trees and repair or replace as necessary.
- 4.14 All pruning to both trees shall be carried out in accordance with good horticultural and arboricultural practice and to the standard of BS 7370-4. When removing branches do not damage or tear the stem or bark. Keep wounds as small as possible and cut cleanly back to sound wood. Make cuts above and sloping away from an outward facing bud, angled so that water will not collect on cut area. Prune larger branches neither flush nor leaving a stub, but use the branch bark ridge or branch collar as a pruning guide. Thin, trim and shape each specimen appropriately to its species, location, season and stage of growth, leaving a well-balanced natural appearance. Use clean sharp secateurs, hand saws or other approved tools for pruning. Trim off ragged edges of bark or wood with a sharp knife. Give notice when disease or infection is detected. Do not use growth retardants, fungicide or pruning sealant unless instructed.
- 4.15 Minor pruning of dead or damaged wood to any of both trees shall be carried out as necessary. Wounds exceeding 25mm diameter must not be treated with a sealant. On substantial trees, the Local Planning Authorities Tree Officer must be consulted for any necessary approvals.
- 4.16 The type and timing of formative pruning of young trees shall be carried out to suit any of both plant species. Do not prune during later winter/ early spring sap flow period. Young trees up to 4m high shall receive a crown prune by removing dead branches and reducing selected side branches by one third to preserve a well-balanced head and ensure the development of a single strong leader. Remove duplicate branches and potentially weak or tight forks by cutting back to live wood. Extensive pruning of young trees and any surgery to larger trees must be carried out by an approved member of the Arboricultural Association or other approved specialist.
- 4.17 To aerate compacted soil surfaces of both tree planting areas prick up the soil of root areas and break surface crust. Reduce the size of soil lumps to crumbs and level off. Do not damage any of both trees or their roots.
- 4.18 Level the soil and mulch at the edges of both tree areas by reducing the level to 50mm below adjacent grass or hard surface. Spread any arisings evenly over the areas of both trees.
- 4.19 The bark mulch should be maintained at an even spread for both trees, of consistent thickness of 50mm, to ensure that it is effective as a weed suppressant and moisture conserver. Following any maintenance operations and on an annual basis, the mulch shall be supplemented to allow for any material which may have been lost. After mulch has spilled to adjacent areas remove weeds and rubbish and return to the tree planted area. Remove weeds growing on or in mulch by herbicide treatment. The bark mulch should be topped up annually.
- 4.20 To remove winter leaves of both trees take down temporary leaf fences. Collect accumulations of drifted leaves from the vicinity and from both tree understories. Dispose the arisings from both trees.
- 4.21 Both tree areas are to be kept free of litter.
- 4.22 Leave the works in a clean tidy condition after any maintenance operations.

5.0 **Appendix**

Maintenance Schedule

Litter Control: Collect and dispose of site litter for both trees	12x per annum – ongoing at each site visit
Work on both trees: Keep a record of water meter readings Cutting & pruning Top up mulch to maintain designed thickness Hand weed Selective weed killer Fertiliser application Check and replace tree stakes and ties Routine inspection of both trees and report Watering	Item 4x per annum 1x per annum – as required 7x per annum 2x applications per year – restricted to weed area 2x applications per year 2x per annum – as required 1x per annum As required