

2667-LLA-ZZ-GF-RP-L-0800-P01

Replacement Tree Management Plan

76 Lawn Road

Private

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Prepared by: **Mathew Hull**
Position: **Landscape Architect**
Qualifications: **MALA, BSc (Hons)**

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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Background and Context	1
1.2	Legal Constraints	1
2	MANAGEMENT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	2
2.1	General Aims and Objectives	2
3	MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NEW PLANTING	3
3.1	New Trees	3

Replacement Tree Management Plan to be read in conjunction with:

- 2667-LLA-ZZ-GF-DR-L-0200_REPLACEMENT TREE PLANTING PLAN

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Context

1.1.1 This report presents a Management Plan for the 2no. *Crataegus monogyna* associated with the property 76 Lawn Road, NW3 2XB. These 2no. trees are to be planted to mitigate the felling of 1no. *Acer pseudoplatanus*.

1.1.2 The management responsibility will be with an appointed management company or the proprietors (whichever is most appropriate). Areas are to be managed in accordance with this Management Plan for a minimum five-year period, commencing at the time of completion of the contractor's defects liability period (12 months after completion of works). For the duration of the contractor's defects liability period the maintenance liability for the 2no. *Crataegus monogyna* will lie with the landscape contractor or whomever planted the trees.

1.1.3 This report has been designed to provide a steering manual for the day-to-day management of the proposed trees and one which can be updated as required. It sets out in broad terms the aspirations for appropriate tree management, both in the short and longer term and provides practical means by which these aims may be translated to well managed results.

1.2 Legal Constraints

1.2.1 Any inhabitation by statutorily protected species will need to be given due consideration with respect to management operations for the trees, as stated below.

1.2.2 In the management schedules set out below, the timing of operations (by season or month) is given, either in terms of achieving optimum results or minimising potential disturbance to wildlife. In general terms, pruning or other works to established trees, which may contain breeding birds, should avoid the bird breeding season. In most years this is typically but not exclusively from the end of February to August as the nesting period may start before and extend beyond these dates.

2.1 General Aims and Objectives

2.1.1 The main aim of the Management Plan is to set mechanisms in place which ensure that the new trees are well managed in perpetuity for the benefit of the property owners, local wildlife and the existing surrounding residents so that they establish into trees with character that are of benefit to the neighbourhood. This report aims to:

- define the management aims, objectives and maintenance practises for the 2no. *Crataegus monogyna*, in the short and longer term
- ensure that these practises can be efficiently carried out and that they are environmentally sustainable
- provide a readily understandable manual for those involved in the management of the trees
- set out an integrated yet flexible approach to the management of the trees and to provide written documentation of the project, with scope for updating and adapting operations if necessary.

2.1.2 The principle aims for managing the *Crataegus monogyna* trees are as follows:

- to maximise the ecological potential of the property by providing the *Crataegus monogyna* which will create habitat and a food source
 - to ensure that the long-term health and vigour of the new trees is optimised in the future
 - to introduce consistent management policies which will enhance the visual appeal of the property and the neighbourhood setting.
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3 MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NEW PLANTING

3.1 New Trees

3.1.1 **Objective:** to promote early establishment and vigour in all newly planted trees. Longer-term management to include replacement as required and formative pruning to create a healthy, strategic soft landscape component and to perpetuate the original design aims.

Establishment Maintenance of New Trees

3.1.2 Establishment maintenance of newly planted trees will be required for the first three years after planting to ensure rapid early growth. Visits shall be undertaken at least monthly between April and September in the first year, with two visits during the dormant season. In the second and third years the frequency of visits can be reduced to bi-monthly. Maintenance visits are required to ensure that the following maintenance requirements are satisfactorily undertaken:

- Watering as required to ensure healthy growth, particularly in the trees first two years after planting. All trees to be visited weekly in periods of dry weather and sufficient water to be applied to eliminate drought related stress. Water to be added to 'TreeGator' watering bags (or similar approved) to their maximum capacity. Watering bags should not be allowed to dry out to ensure that the trees have a consistent water supply. Between November and March, watering can be ceased as the trees are not growing and watering could promote root rot.
- All trees to be treated with an annual application of an approved slow-release fertiliser used as a top dressing at the manufacturer's recommended rates in April of Years 1 and 3. Slow release fertiliser to be applied no further from the tree than the first metre and to be placed under mulch and covered to ensure a hazard is not presented on the ground surface.

- Trees that have become loosened, are leaning or have lifted out of the ground to be set upright and re-firmed by treading. Tree supports to be regularly checked, adjusted, repaired and replaced as necessary and irrigation tubes to be kept free of blockages.
- Tree stake ties to be adjusted (loosened or tightened) regularly to avoid asphyxiation of the tree trunk and to ensure rubbing does not occur owing to wind rock.
- Weed control is required to keep all planting areas free of grass and weed growth. This weed control must be by hand. Chemical weed controls are not to be used, to avoid pollution.
- Trees to be kept free of pests and diseases; regular monitoring to be undertaken.
- General pruning to be carried out to remove straggling stems, over-vigorous shoots, suckers and dead, misshapen, broken or otherwise unhealthy branches. The overall form of the tree is to remain balanced following pruning work.
- Where mulch is used as a top dressing, this is to be regularly topped up to 100mm, to ensure a minimum depth of 75mm. Mulch to be kept clear of adjacent hard landscape areas etc. Mulch used shall be a coarse composted bark. Application shall be even across the extent of the planting area and there should be no mounding of bark mulch around the base of the tree (known as volcano mulching).
- General autumn tidy.
- All arisings to be removed from area and the site to be left clean and tidy at all times.

3.1.3

An inspection is to be made in August each year. Any losses of planted trees, whether by natural means, vandalism or that have failed to thrive are to be replaced in the planting season following the loss. Replacement trees are to be of the same specification and size as the original plants and of the best quality obtainable.

Longer Term Management of New Trees

3.1.4

Regular maintenance visits should be made at quarterly intervals each year. It will be necessary to undertake general inspection for pests and disease, 'tidying' e.g.

pruning of any poor or damaged branches, removal and replacement of dead trees, litter and leaf fall clearance, topping up, raking and sweeping of mulch to provide a tidy appearance etc., as described above for the Establishment Period. All arisings to be removed from site and the site to be left clean and tidy at all times.

- 3.1.5 An inspection to be made in August up to and including Year 5. Any losses of planted trees, whether by natural means, wear and tear or vandalism and any other trees that have failed to thrive, to be noted and the trees replaced in the planting season following the loss. Replacement trees to be of the same specification, location and size as the original trees, unless the LPA gives its written consent to any variation.
- 3.1.6 Tree stakes to be checked and when necessary adjusted, repaired, removed or replaced, to ensure healthy unrestricted growth. If a tree stake is no longer required as the tree is supporting itself, remove the tree support entirely. The tree support is generally removed around year 3, however this judgement shall depend on how well the tree has established before tree support removal is considered.
- 3.1.7 Following completion of the Establishment Period, the need for both watering and weed control is likely to be reduced but must still be undertaken as necessary to ensure healthy growth and maintain the mulched tree beds in a weed free condition. Tree surroundings to be maintained in a weed free state, mulch material to be kept topped up to a depth of 75mm. In dry summers trees will require watering using the watering bag system to ensure healthy growth. However, by this stage it may be allowable to remove the watering bags. This judgement shall depend on how well the tree has established before watering bag removal is considered.
- 3.1.8 Regular monitoring for pests and diseases will also be needed on an on-going basis and any necessary control measures undertaken as soon as possible.
- 3.1.9 General, corrective pruning to trees to remove die back, straggling stems, over-vigorous shoots, suckers, epicormic growth and dead, misshapen, discoloured, thin, weak, over-crowded, old, broken or dangerous branches from trees by pruning back with a clean cut to the main stem, or to a sound and healthy outward growing lateral. Any removal of dead, diseased or ill formed trees is also to be undertaken at this time and any required replacements undertaken.

3.1.10

Trees to be subject to formative pruning, crown thinning and crown raising / reduction, on an annual basis in the autumn, and at other additional times as necessary, to improve the shape of the crowns and to remove any die back and weak or dangerous branches.