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HEREFORDSHIRE

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LANDSCAPE SPECIFICATION

Q35 Landscape Maintenance

To be read with Preliminaries/General conditions.

- 10 GRASS WORKS
- 20 FORESTRY / STRUCTURE PLANTING
- 30 TREES
- 40 SHRUBS
- 50 HEDGES
- 60 AQUATICS

GENERALLY

110 NOTICE

- Give notice before:
 - Application of herbicide.
 - Application of fertilizer.
 - Watering.
 - Each site maintenance visit.
- Period of notice: 7 days.

111 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

- Carry out the work during appropriate seasons and while soil and weather conditions are suitable for the relevant operations.

112 MACHINES AND TOOLS

- Use only machinery and tools suitable for the site conditions and the work to be carried out. Use hand tools around trees, plants and in confined spaces where it is impracticable to use machinery.

130 REINSTATEMENT

- Damage or disturbance to soil structure, planting, grass, fencing, hard landscaping, structures or buildings: Reinstate to original condition.

140 CONTROL OF MAMMALIAN PESTS

- Specialist firms/Methods: Submit proposals.

150 WATERING GENERALLY

- Obtain CA's approval before using a supply other than potable mains water.
- Ensure the full depth of topsoil is thoroughly wetted.
- Use a fine rose or low-pressure hose where appropriate to avoid damaging or loosening plants.
- Where necessary, loosen soil or form depressions around the stem base of plants to ensure that water reaches the root zone instead of dispersing on the surface.

152 WATER AVAILABILITY

- Ensure that sufficient water will be available to carry out all specified watering duties. If insufficient is available for site, then provide alternative, ie. Bowser. Ensure full watering of Broadleaf P4 in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

155 WATERING

fira landscape architecture and urban design

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- Supply: Portable mains water.
- Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
- Application: Do not damage or loosen plants.
- Compacted soil: Loosen or scoop out, to direct water to rootzone.
- Frequency: As necessary for the continued thriving of all planting.

160 WATER RESTRICTIONS

- General: 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.

170 DISPOSAL OF ARISING

- General: Unless specified otherwise, dispose of arisings as follows:
- Remove all arisings from site.

180 CHIPPING OR SHREDDING ON SITE

- General: Not permitted on site.

190 LITTER

- Extraneous rubbish not arising from the contract work: Collect and remove from site.

195 PROTECTION OF EXISTING GRASS

- General: Protect areas affected by maintenance operations using boards/tarpaulins. Do not place excavated or imported materials directly on grass.

197 CLEANLINESS

- Soil and arisings: Remove from hard surfaces.
- General: Leave the works in a clean, tidy condition at completion and after any maintenance operations.

198 CHEMICALS GENERALLY

- Use only where specified or approved, and then only products on the current list of the Agricultural Chemicals Approval Scheme.
- Where work is near water, drainage ditches or land drains, comply with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food "Code of Practice for the use of herbicides on weeds in water courses and lakes".
- Observe all precautions recommended by the manufacturer and remove containers from site immediately they have been emptied or are no longer required.

GRASSED AREAS

210 FAILURES OF SEEDING/TURFING

- Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until end of the rectification period.
- Defective materials or workmanship: Areas that have failed to thrive.
 - Exclusions: Theft or malicious damage.
- Method of making good: Re-cultivation and reseedling/ re-turfing.
- Timing of making good: The next suitable planting season.



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211 MAINTENANCE OF GRASSED AREAS

- Standard: To BS 7370-3. Carry out maintenance appropriate to each category of turf, as follows:
 - Objectives: To BS 7370-3, table 6.
 - Programme: To BS 7370-3, clause 11.
 - Mowing methods: To BS 7370-3, table 3.

220 GRASS CUTTING GENERALLY

- Before mowing: Remove litter, rubbish and debris.
- Finish: Neat and even, without surface rutting, compaction or damage to grass.
- Edges: Leave neat and well defined. Neatly trim around obstructions.
- Adjoining hard areas: Sweep clear and remove arisings.
- Drought or wet conditions: Obtain instructions.

225 TREE STEMS

- Precautions: Do not use mowing machinery closer than 100 mm to tree stems. Use nylon filament rotary cutters and other hand-held mechanical tools carefully to avoid damage to bark.

230 GRASS CUTTING MACHINES

- Machines must be appropriate to the grass cutting operation required, taking due regard to grass type, mowing specification, ground contour and condition. Machinery is to be well maintained and correctly adjusted to give a clean even cut without damaging the grass.

250 LEAF REMOVAL FROM SPORTSFIELD

- Operations: Remove fallen leaves.
- At no time shall leaves remain on the grass longer than 10 working days.
- Disposal: As clause 170

260 MAINTAINING GENERAL GRASS AREAS

- Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until end of defects period.
- Maximum height of growth at any time: 50mm.
- Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris.
- Cutting: As and when necessary to a height of 25mm.
 - Arisings: Remove from site.
- Bulb planting areas: Do not cut until bulb foliage has died down.
- Trimming: All edges.
 - Arisings: Remove.
- Weed control: Substantially free of broad-leaved weeds.
 - Method: Application of a suitable selective herbicide.
- Stones brought to the surface: Remove regularly.
 - Size: Exceeding 25 mm in any dimension.
- Areas of settlement: Make good.
- Watering: As necessary to ensure establishment.

270 MAINTAINING SPORTFIELD

- Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until end of defects period.



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- Maintain to SAPCA Code of Practice for Design, Construction & Improvement of Natural Sports Turf, June 2010 (1st Edition)
- Outline Maintenance Schedule accordance with Appendix 4 of SAPCA Code of Practice (page 113).
- Maximum sward height: Grass shall not exceed 40mm
- Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris.
- Cutting: As and when necessary to a height of 25mm.
 - Arisings: Remove from site.
- Trimming: All edges.
 - Arisings: Remove.
- Weed control: Substantially free of broad-leaved weeds.
 - Method: Application of a suitable selective herbicide.
- Stones brought to the surface: Remove regularly.
 - Size: Exceeding 25 mm in any dimension.
- Areas of settlement: Make good.
- Top dressing: September, May & July. 8mm approved medium fine sand brushed into surface.
- Aeration: Relieve ground compaction as necessary.
- Repairs: Make good worn areas as necessary.
- **Watering: As necessary to ensure establishment.**

275 MAINTAINING GRASSED AREAS WITH WILDFLOWERS

- Preparation: Before each cut remove litter and debris.
- Height and frequency of cut in first growing season:
 - Time of first cut: March/April.
 - Height of first cut: 70mm.
 - Frequency of subsequent cutting (minimum): Every six to eight weeks until Autumn.
 - Height of growth permitted (maximum): 100mm.
- Height and frequency of cut in second growing season and subsequent seasons:
 - Time of cut: March-cut
 - Height of cut: 70mm and remove cuttings
 - Second cut: Late September/ October
 - Height of cut: 40mm and remove cuttings
- Trimming: At the time of each cut, trim all grass edges, including round the base of trees, manholes, etc.
- Arisings: Remove.
- Watering: As required to maintain a healthy sward.

282 EDGE TRIMMING

- Where lawns adjoin borders the fringe of grass at the border edge shall be clipped after each cut and all trimmings removed from site.

309 EDGES TO SEEDED AREAS

- Location: Planting beds and around newly planted trees.
- Timing: After seeded areas are well established.
- Edges: Cut to clean straight lines or smooth curves. Draw back soil to permit edging.
- Arisings: Remove.



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- 320 LEVELLING HOLLOWS AND BUMPS IN TURF
- Standard: To BS 7370-3, clauses 12.4 and 12.5.
- 325 RELIEVING SURFACE COMPACTION IN TURF
- Standard: To BS 7370-3.
- 330 SELECTIVE HERBICIDE
- Type: Selective herbicide contractor's choice.
 - Areas not to be sprayed: Wildflower or bulb and corm planted areas.
- 381 REINSTATEMENT OF WORN OR DAMAGED LAWNS
- Worn or damaged areas: Make good by returfing or reseeding:
 - Returfing standard: To BS 7370-3, Clause 12.2.
 - Reseeding standard: To BS 7370-3, Clause 12.6.
 - Turf or seed: To match existing in appearance and quality.
 - Protection and watering: Provide as necessary to promote successful germination and/or establishment.

SHRUBS/TREES/HEDGES

- 500 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PLANTING
- Duration: Defects Liability Period.
 - Weed control:
 - Keep planting beds clear of weeds by hand weeding.
 - Maintain a weed free area around each tree and shrub, minimum diameter the larger of 1m or the surface of the original planting pit.
 - Soil condition: Fork over beds to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Do not reduce depth or effect of mulch.
 - Trees: When in leaf, spray crowns in the evening during warm weather.
- 502 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW PLANTING - FERTILIZER
- Time of year: March or April.
 - Type: Slow Release.
 - Spreading: Spread evenly. Carefully lift and replace any mulch materials.
 - Coverage: 70g/m².
- 510 TREE STAKES AND TIES
- Inspection/maintenance times: On each visit.
 - Stakes:
 - Replace loose, broken or decayed stakes to original specification.
 - If longer than half of clear tree stem height, cut to this height in spring. Retie to tree firmly but not tightly with a single tie.
 - Ties: Adjust, refix or replace loose or defective ties, allowing for growth and to prevent chafing.
 - Where chafing has occurred, reposition or replace ties to prevent further chafing.
 - Removal of stakes and ties: As agreed with client.
 - Fill stake holes with lightly compacted soil.



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520 RE-FIRMING OF TREES AND SHRUBS

- Timing: After strong winds, frost heave and other disturbances.
- Re-firming: Tread around the base until firmly bedded.
- Collars in soil at base of tree stems, created by tree movement: Break up by fork, avoiding damage to roots. Backfill with topsoil and re-firm.

530 TREE & SHRUB SHELTERS

- Loose or defective shelters: Adjust, refix or replace to original specification and to prevent chafing.
- Removal: As agreed with client.

537 WATERING TREES

- Apply water to prevent drying out and to promote establishment.

538 WATERING SEMI-MATURE TREES

- Apply water to prevent drying out and to promote establishment. Spray crown of trees when in leaf during warm weather in the evenings. Semi matures allow for 200 litres of water/week per tree during the growing season.

540 PRUNING GENERALLY

- Pruning: In accordance with good horticultural and arboricultural practice.
 - Removing branches: Do not damage or tear the stem.
 - Wounds: Keep as small as possible and cut cleanly back to sound wood.
 - Cutting: Make cuts above and sloping away from an outward facing healthy bud, angled so that water will not collect on cut area.
 - Larger branches: Prune neither flush nor leaving a stub but using the branch bark ridge or branch collar as a pruning guide.
- Appearance: Thin, trim and shape each specimen appropriately to species, location, season, and stage of growth, leaving a well-balanced natural appearance.
- Tools: Use clean sharp secateurs, hand saws or other approved tools. Trim off ragged edges of bark or wood with a sharp knife.
- Disease or fungus: Give notice if detected.
- Growth retardants, fungicide or sealant: Do not use unless instructed.

545 PRUNING OF EXCESSIVE OVERHANG

- Timing: Autumn.
- Operations: Remove growth encroaching onto grassed areas, paths, roads, signs, sightlines and road lighting luminaires.

555 PRUNING TREES AND SHRUBS

- Standard: To BS 7370-4.

570 FORMATIVE PRUNING OF YOUNG TREES

- Standard: Type and timing of pruning operations to suit the plant species.
- Time of year: Do not prune during the late winter/ early spring sap flow period.
- Young trees up to 4 m high:
 - 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.



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- Remove duplicated branches and potentially weak or tight forks. In each case cut back to live wood.
- Whips or feathered trees: Do not prune.
- Operatives: 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.

575 PRUNING ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS

- General: Prune to encourage healthy and bushy growth and desirable ornamental features, e.g. flowers, fruit, autumn colour, stem colour.
- Suckers: Remove by cutting back level with the source stem or root.

580 PRUNING FLOWERING SPECIES OF SHRUBS AND ROSES

- Time of year:
 - Winter flowering shrubs: Spring.
 - Shrubs flowering between March and July: Immediately after the flowering period.
 - Shrubs flowering between July and October: Back to old wood in winter.
 - Rose bushes: Early spring to encourage basal growths and a balanced, compact habit.

615 TRIMMING FIELD HEDGES

- Operations: Trim to specified height and profile using suitable mechanical cutters.

620 REMOVAL OF DEAD PLANT MATERIAL

- Operations: At the end of the growing season, check all shrubs and remove all dead foliage, dead wood, and broken or damaged branches and stems.

645 WEED CONTROL GENERALLY

- Weed tolerance: Remove at every maintenance visit.
- Adjacent plants, trees and grass: Do not damage.

650 HAND WEEDING

- General: Remove weeds entirely, including roots.
- Disturbance: Remove the minimum quantity of soil, and disturb plants, bulbs and mulched surfaces as little as possible.
- Completion: Rake area to a neat, clean condition.
- Mulch: Reinstall to original depth.

657 HERBICIDE TO KILL REGROWTH

- Type: Suitable foliar acting herbicide to kill regrowth.
- Timing: Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing arisings.

665 WEED CONTROL WITH WINTER HERBICIDE

- Type: Suitable residual soil acting herbicide.
- Time of year: Unless otherwise agreed, complete before end of March.
- Timing: Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing arisings.

670 WEED CONTROL WITH SUMMER HERBICIDE

- Type: Suitable foliar acting herbicide.



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- Timing: Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing arisings.

675 DIGGING OVER

- General: Dig over beds. Do not damage existing plants, bulbs and roots.
 - Depth of dig (minimum): 100mm.

680 SOIL AERATION

- Compacted soil surfaces:
 - Prick up: To aerate the soil of root areas.
 - Break surface crust reduce size of lumps to crumb and level off.
- Do not damage plants and their roots.

685 SOIL LEVEL ADJUSTMENT

- Level of soil/mulch at edges of beds: Reduce to 50 mm below adjacent grass or hard surface.
 - Arisings (if any): Spread evenly over the bed.

687 WATER SHRUB BEDS

- Ensure that sufficient water is applied to maintain healthy growth of all shrubs and plants during dry weather conditions using a fine hose or sprinkler until the full depth of the topsoil is saturated. 30 litres/m².

690 MAINTENANCE OF LOOSE MULCH

- Thickness (minimum): 75mm.
 - Top up as required to maintain depth.
- Mulch spill on adjacent areas: Remove weeds and rubbish and return to planted area.
- Weeding: Remove weeds growing on or in mulch by hand.

TREE WORK

810 TREE WORK GENERALLY

- Identification: Before starting work agree which trees, shrubs and hedges are to be removed or pruned.
- Protection: Refer to arboriculturalists report.
- Standards: To BS 3998 and Health & Safety Executive (HSE) 'Forestry and arboriculture safety leaflets'.
- Removing branches: Cut as shown in Arboricultural Association Leaflet 'Mature tree maintenance'. Cut vertical branches similarly, with no more slope on the cut surface than is necessary to shed rainwater.
- Appearance: Leave trees with a well balanced natural appearance.
- Chain saw work: Operatives must hold a Certificate of Competence.
- Tree work: To be carried out by an approved member of the Arboricultural Association.

815 ADDITIONAL WORK

- Defective, diseased, unsafe or weak parts of trees additional to those scheduled for attention: Give notice if detected.

820 PREVENTION OF WOUND BLEEDING



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- Standard: To BS 3998, clause 8.

825 PREVENTION OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION

- Standard: To BS 3998, clause 9 and Appendix B.

830 CLEANING OUT AND DEADWOODING

- Remove:
 - Dead, dying, or diseased wood, broken branches and stubs.
 - Fungal growths and fruiting bodies.
 - Rubbish, wind-blown or accumulated in branch forks.
 - Wires, clamps, boards and metal objects, if removable without causing further damage and not part of a support structure that is to be retained.

835 CUTTING AND PRUNING GENERALLY

- Tools: Appropriate, well maintained and sharp.
- Final pruning cuts:
 - Do not use chainsaws on branches of less than 50 mm diameter.
 - When using handsaws, cut in one continuous operation to form a smooth cut surface.
 - Do not use anvil type secateurs.
- Removing branches: Do not damage or tear the stem.
- Wounds: Keep as small as possible, cut cleanly back to sound wood leaving a smooth surface, and angled so that water will not collect on the cut area.
- Cutting: Cut at a fork or at the main stem to avoid stumps wherever possible.
- Large branches:
 - Remove in small sections and lower to ground with ropes and slings.
- Dead branches and stubs: When removing, do not cut into live wood.
- Unsafe branches: Remove epicormic shoots and potentially weak forks that could fail in adverse weather conditions.
- Disease or fungus: Give notice if detected. Do not apply fungicide or sealant unless instructed.

845 CROWN LIFTING

- Clearances: Remove branch systems to give clearance.
 - Height: 2.5m.
- Removing branches: Remove whole branches back to the stem or cut lower portions of branches back to lateral or sublateral buds or branches. Do not leave stumps.

850 CROWN THINNING

- Removing branches: Remove inward growing, crossing, rubbing, dead and damaged branches.
- Thinning: Selectively remove approximately 20% of secondary and small live branch growth evenly throughout the crown.
- Cutting: Make no cuts of more than 50mm diameter. Cut portions of branches back to lateral or sublateral buds or branches without leaving stumps.
- Appearance: Leave a uniform and well-balanced structure of branches and foliage.

855 CUTTING TREE ROOTS

- Excavating: Use hand tools only.
- Protected area: Do not cut roots within an area which is the larger of:



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- the branch spread of the tree.
- an area with a radius of half the tree's height, measured from the trunk.
- Outside protected area: Give notice of roots exceeding 50 mm in diameter. Do not cut without approval.
- Cutting:
 - Make clean smooth cuts with a hand saw.
 - Minimize the wound area and avoid ragged edges.
 - Pare cut surfaces smooth with a sharp knife.
- Backfilling:
 - Cover cut roots with clean sharp sand.
 - Backfill with original topsoil.

865 BARK DAMAGE

- Wounds:
 - Do not attempt to stop sap bleeding.
 - Bark: Gently remove ragged edges using a sharp knife.
 - Wood: Remove splintered wood from deep wounds.
 - Size: Keep wounds as small as possible.
- Liquid or flux oozing from apparently healthy bark: Give notice.

HARD LANDSCAPE AREAS/FENCING

910 HARD SURFACES AND GRAVEL AREAS

- Herbicide: Apply a suitable foliar acting or residual herbicide. Allow recommended period for herbicide to take effect before clearing arisings.
- Hard surfaces: Remove litter, leaves and other debris.
- Surface gutters and channels: Remove mud, silt and debris.
- Drainage gullies: Empty traps and flush clean.
- Gravel areas: Rake over. Remove weeds, litter, leaves and debris, and level off.
- Flexible bituminous pavings: In accordance with the original paving specification or BS 7370-2, clause 4.12.
- Stain removal: In accordance with BS 7370-2, table 4.

920 FENCING

- Fences: Inspect and repair to maintain protection against all damages.