

IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

1.0 GENERAL

All plants shall conform to BS 2838 and be in accordance with the National Plant Specifications. Suckling nurseries shall be planted unless the HTA Nursery Certification Scheme. All plants shall be retained and transported in accordance with the Code of Practice for Plant Handling as produced by CPSE. Planting shall not be carried out when the ground is waterlogged, frostbound or during periods of cold drying winds. All bare root stock shall be not dipped in approved water-retaining polymer.

If the formation level is compacted it should be topped through before topsoiling. Topsoil depths to be 450mm for shrub beds and 150mm for grass areas.

2.0 ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS AND TREES

**Ground Preparation**  
Where necessary that existing weeds with a glyphosate based herbicide and allow a suitable period as recommended by the manufacturer for this to take effect. A general purpose slow release fertiliser at the rate of 75g/m<sup>2</sup> and Tree Planting and Mulching Compost at the rate of 100t/m<sup>2</sup> are to be incorporated into the top 150mm of topsoil directly following. All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm in any dimension shall be removed from site.

Tree pits are to be excavated and the base broken up to a further 150mm within the sides well compacted to prevent settling. All trees up to and including selected standards are to be supported with single 75mm diameter stakes. All rootball, container grown and trees over heavy standard size shall be double staked. Any feature trees sent mature in size to be secured with a basic ground anchoring system such as a deadman anchor. Stakes should be 100mm into undisturbed ground before planting the tree, taking care to avoid underground services and cables etc.

**Planting**  
Shrubs and hedges are to be set out as shown on the drawing and pit planted into the prepared soil at the specified centres with minimal disturbance to the rootball and well formed.

Trees are to be placed into the pits and backfilled with topsoil incorporating slow release fertiliser and Tree Planting and Mulching Compost as specified. Firm trees in well and secure with proprietary rubber tree ties and spacers.

Water in all trees and shrubs at the end of each day of planting.

Spread ornamental bark mulch to a depth of 75mm across all new planting areas, ensuring groundcover plants are not buried.

**Maintenance**  
The landscape contractor shall maintain all areas of new planting for a period of 12 months following practical completion. All stock deemed to be dead, dying or diseased within the defined period shall be replaced by the contractor at their own cost.

The site is to be visited monthly throughout the year to undertake the following operations:  
**Weed clearance** All planting areas are to be kept weed free by hand weeding or herbicide treatment.  
**Watering** All trees to be watered monthly.

**Pruning** All trees to be checked and adjusted if no issues, but if pruning is occurring, any broken stems are to be replaced.  
Canopies and/or damaged shoot/branches are to be pruned back to healthywood. Plants are to be pruned in accordance with good horticultural practice to maintain healthy well-shaped specimens.

3.0 NATIVE SHRUB PLANTING

**Ground Preparation**  
The extent of the planting area shall be set out using 380x1200mm timber stakes at each change in direction and at a maximum of 50m intervals.

Either a for not planting  
All herbaceous material within the proposed planting area shall be sprayed out using an approved herbicide at least two weeks before planting and the ground shall be cultivated to a depth of 100mm.  
For all planting  
A 100mm diameter circle shall be sprayed out at each planting station using an approved herbicide at least two weeks before planting.

**Planting**  
All bare rooted stock is to be set out as shown on the drawing and pit planted into the prepared soil at the specified centres. To avoid straight lines each planting station can be moved by up to 300mm in any direction.

Either a for not planting  
All trees to be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary tree and shrub shelters, 100mm and 150mm high respectively, secured with stakes and ties as advised by the manufacturer.

All trees to be protected from rabbit damage by 100mm high rabbit fencing erected in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

3.3 Maintenance

Using approved herbicides a 700mm diameter circle centred on each planting station shall be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period.

Each Autumn after planting and until hawdover to the adjoining authority, the contractor will prepare a list of all plants which are dead, dying or diseased and will replace these during the following planting season.

4.0 NATIVE HEDGE PLANTING

**Setting Out**  
The hedge line shall be set out using 380x1200 stakes at maximum 50m intervals and all herbaceous material within 100mm of the centre line shall be sprayed out using an approved herbicide at least two weeks before planting.

**Preparation**  
The 800mm wide hedge line shall be cultivated to 150mm incorporating Ermap or equal 75g/m<sup>2</sup>.

**Planting**  
Plants shall be notch planted in two rows, 250mm apart and staggered at 300mm centres. All plants are to be protected with a 600mm proprietary shelter secured with a stake/line and ties as recommended by the manufacturer.

**Maintenance**  
Using approved herbicides a 800mm wide swathe centred on the hedge line shall be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period.

Each Autumn after planting and until hawdover to the adjoining authority, the contractor will prepare a list of all plants which are dead, dying or diseased and will replace these during the following planting season.

5.0 GRASS

**Preparation**  
The area to be seeded shall be sprayed out with a glyphosate herbicide and cultivated to a depth of 100mm removing all weeds, seeds and stones over 20mm diameter. The surface shall be smoothed to ensure a level finish. Incorporating pre-seeding fertiliser at 70 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

5.2 Turf

Turfing operations shall be in accordance with BS 438.

Whole turves shall be laid around the perimeter of the area to be turfed. The central area shall be laid in rows with staggered joints, well butted together, working from plants positioned on turves away from the turf that shall be watered and compacted. Any weaknesses shall be made good by filling the turf and adjusting the levels. Should drainage occur, the topsoil shall be brushed into the joints.

**Seeding**  
Grass seed shall be sown in April during calm weather and not when the ground is frost bound or waterlogged. Seed shall be sown in two equal swaths in transverse directions at 25g/m<sup>2</sup>. After sowing the contractor shall gently rake and seed into the surface. All seed mixes to be specified in accordance with those set out in the approved management plan.

**Label out**  
When newly seeded areas reach 50mm they should be cut back to a height of 30mm and then cut twice monthly in early Spring and late Summer. All arisings shall be removed or spread evenly across grounds. Any bare patches shall be made good at this time.

6.0 TOPSOIL

**Existing Topsoil**  
Pre-existing topsoil shall be removed to a depth of 100mm and replaced with new topsoil.

Apply for suitable spraying apparatus, an approved translocated systemic herbicide to the manufacturer's instructions and to 1997 Control of Pesticides Regulations and 2002 COSHH regulations on all beds, except those which are both weed free and are to receive a generalist sheet mulch. Spray immediately if any weeds are present. If none are showing, but there may be a delay before planting, or the area is to be seeded, spray after one month following cultivation to allow dormant seed to germinate. All spraying shall be carried out by a skilled and qualified operator, using protective clothing in suitable weather. No wind and any damage caused by spray drift, from incorrect usage or spillage, shall be rectified at the contractor's own cost. Repair as necessary to ensure complete fill and rake off all dead material from site.

Carry out the following works to the existing topsoil on site to ensure it conforms to BS 3883:2015 being free from rocks larger than 50mm diameter, concrete, all roots, wire, brick, and have less than 20% clay. Allow for pre-application of herbicide as above. Fertilise with 100g per square metre of Vita 'M' 100g slow release fertiliser. In accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. For beds less than 5 metres in width, fork over thoroughly or machine rotate with a depth of 200mm, ensuring that the substrate and topsoil are completely mixed and the soil draining, rolling and compacted. For beds greater than 5 metres in width, break up the substrate and topsoil using a tractor mounted subsoiler or deeper at 500mm centres to a depth of 500mm, except where there are roots or, within 10 metres of tree stems or 3 metres of existing hedges. Do not rip areas where roots greater than 100mm diameter are encountered.

**Imported Topsoil**  
Any imported topsoil for making up ground, shall conform to BS 3883:2015, and be free from rocks larger than 50mm diameter, concrete, roots, wire and bricks, and have less than 20% clay.

7.0 WILDFLOWER AND GRASSLAND MIX

**Preparation**  
Grass seed mixtures to be sourced from certified local provenance seed stock. Ground surface will be cleared of weed growth either removed by hand or through the application of an approved Glyphosate based herbicide. All herbicide should only be handled by certified users and in accordance with the COSHH Regulations 2002. The ground will then be ploughed and raked to produce a medium fine seedbed with weeds and stones over 25mm diameter removed. The surface shall be raked to smooth flowing contours with a fine medium bed.

**Seeding**  
Seed mixtures and wildflower seed mixes shall be sown in either August - September or March - April during calm weather and not when the ground is frost bound or waterlogged. Seed shall be sown in two equal swaths in transverse directions at 5 g/m<sup>2</sup>, according to supplier's recommendations. After sowing the contractor shall roll the seed into intimate contact with the soil with a Ribbed Cambridge roller.

**First year maintenance**  
All litter should be removed from areas prior to mowing. The following procedures should not be undertaken in adverse weather conditions or if ground conditions prevent the use of machinery without damage to the ground surface. Mow regularly throughout the first year of establishment to encourage basal growth and reduce weed competition. All arisings shall be removed or deposited in an area designated by the Contract Manager. Any bare patches shall be made good at this time.

**Second and subsequent year maintenance**  
Management of subsequent years comprises a single Autumn cut in September or October to allow plants to set seed. Arisings shall be left for a minimum of 24 hours and a maximum of 7 days before being removed or relocated to an area identified by the Contract Manager.

**Watering**  
Watering shall be carried out in accordance with the implementation and maintenance guidelines.

**Maintenance**  
The landscape contractor shall maintain all areas of new planting for a period of 12 months following practical completion. All stock deemed to be dead, dying or diseased within the defined period shall be replaced by the contractor at their own cost.

The site is to be visited monthly throughout the year to undertake the following operations:  
**Weed clearance** All planting areas are to be kept weed free by hand weeding or herbicide treatment.  
**Watering** All trees to be watered monthly.

**Pruning** All trees to be checked and adjusted if no issues, but if pruning is occurring, any broken stems are to be replaced.  
Canopies and/or damaged shoot/branches are to be pruned back to healthywood. Plants are to be pruned in accordance with good horticultural practice to maintain healthy well-shaped specimens.

**Planting**  
Shrubs and hedges are to be set out as shown on the drawing and pit planted into the prepared soil at the specified centres with minimal disturbance to the rootball and well formed.

Trees are to be placed into the pits and backfilled with topsoil incorporating slow release fertiliser and Tree Planting and Mulching Compost as specified. Firm trees in well and secure with proprietary rubber tree ties and spacers.

Water in all trees and shrubs at the end of each day of planting.

Spread ornamental bark mulch to a depth of 75mm across all new planting areas, ensuring groundcover plants are not buried.

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