

SPECIFICATION

1 GENERAL

1.1 Preliminaries

Tree and hedgerow protection, subsoil cultivation, topsoiling and levelling/grading operations outlined below are the responsibility of the Site Agent unless stated otherwise.

Trees in hard surfaces will require engineered tree pits which will require construction when surfaces and service routes are being installed. Reference should be made to the appropriate tree pit detail drawing provided by the engineers.

Where tree pits are within 5m of roads and services, and within 3m of other paved surfaces a linear root barrier is to be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. The barrier should be as near as possible to the surface or service route to be protected to provide as much rooting area for the tree as possible.

1.2 Soft Landscaping considerations

All soft landscaping should be carried out by specialist landscape sub-contractor who is a member of the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI).

All plants shall conform to the specification details shown on this drawing, be in accordance with the National Plant Specification and to the relevant section of BS 3936, and trees to the most current BS 8545.

Supplying nurseries shall be registered under the HTA Nursery Certification Scheme.

All plants shall be packed, transported and handled in accordance with the Code of Practice for Plant Handling as produced by the Committee for Plant Supply and Establishment (CPSE) and handling of trees to the most current BS 8545. All planting, seeding and turling operations are to be in accordance with latest BS4428 Code of practice for general landscape operations.

Any plant material that does not meet the approved specification or schedule requirements shall be rejected and replaced at the landscape contractor's own expense. ANY PLANT SUBSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE APPROVED BY BLOOR HOMES LANDSCAPE DESIGN TEAM

Reference must be made to Tree Protection Drawings.

2 RETENTION OF EXISTING TREES AND HEDGEROWS

Precautions must be taken to ensure that trees and hedges shown for retention remain undisturbed with roots and branches protected with robust barriers in accordance with the most current BS 5837. Any tree surgery work should be in accordance with the most current BS 3998 'Recommendation for Tree Work' and must comply with any Conservation Area, Tree Preservation Orders or specific planning conditions where appropriate.

Reference must be made to Tree Protection Drawings.

3 PRE-PLANTING AND PRE-TURFING GROUND PREPARATION

3.1 Subsoil Cultivation

Prior to any topsoiling all subsoil should be thoroughly 'rippled' to relieve compaction using suitable machinery, or by hand in confined areas or in proximity to existing tree roots to a depth shown below.

3.2 Imported Topsoil

Topsoil and all topsoiling operations are to be carried out in accordance with the most current BS 3882. Topsoil should be carried out to the depths shown below and all topsoiled areas should be cleared of all extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm in any dimension which should be removed from site.

Minimum depths of topsoil and cultivation to be achieved:

Type of Soft Landscaping	Topsoil Depth	Depth of subsoil to be broken up
Planted areas*	350mm	150mm
Grass Areas	150mm	150mm

* Tree groups and individual tree pits require a minimum of 600mm depth of topsoil.

3.3 Levelling/Grading

Finished soil levels adjacent to buildings are to be 150mm below damp proof course. For planted areas where 50mm depth bark mulch is specified with bio-degradable membrane the soil should be graded down within 500mm of adjacent paved or grass surfaces to 65mm below the paving or grass. This allows for full depth of bark mulch with 15mm clearance. Where 40mm depth stone mulch is specified with geotextile membrane grade to 50mm below paving or grass within 500mm. For turfed areas final soil levels should be flush with the adjacent paving ready to receive the turf and for seeded areas at least 10mm above. The landscape contractor should allow for any necessary adjustments in levels prior to planting and turling works.

3.4 Weed Treatment

Only where necessary, because significant weed growth has started to establish, treat existing weeds with a non-residual based, herbicide and allow a suitable period as recommended by the manufacturer for this to take effect. Herbicide should be used strictly in accordance with Control of Pesticide Regulations 1986 (or otherwise updated/superseded legislation), according to manufacturer's instructions and only by qualified staff. Use products that are approved by the Soil Association.

Remove small amounts of weed growth within shrub beds by hand at time of planting.

4 PLANTING

4.1 Ground Preparation

A general purpose organic slow release fertilizer at the rate of 100g/m2 is to be incorporated into the top 150mm of topsoil during final cultivations.

Tree pits are to be excavated to a minimum of 1m X 1m X 600mm with the sides well scarified to prevent smearing, the base of tree pits are to remain undisturbed and should only be broken up if there is a drainage problem and/or soil pan. If conditions make drainage necessary this should be provided away from the tree, with the base of the pit sloped to direct water into a drainage pipe.

Where planting beds are to receive mulch over weed suppressant membrane this should be fixed in place prior to setting out plants. See mulch specification below.

4.2 Setting out

Shrubs and hedges are to be set out as shown on the drawing at the specified densities and centres.

Trees are to be planted in the positions shown on the drawing ensuring that they are at the correct distances from adjacent buildings and 1.5m from drainage runs. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that all underground services have been located and identified in advance of tree pit excavation to avoid damage to any underground services or cables.

4.3 Planting

Planting shall not be carried out when the ground is waterlogged, frost-bound or during periods of cold drying winds.

Bare rooted stock to be planted between mid-November and end-February.

Plants are to be pit planted into the prepared soil cutting a cross in the weed suppressant membrane, incorporating Peat Free Tree and Shrub Compost in quantities shown below and firmed in. Planting pit sizes should be relative to the container size of the plant and shall be sufficiently large enough to accommodate the plant and allow for backfill of topsoil and plant root drainage.

Root flare of the newly planted tree should be clearly visible at the soil surface. It should not be buried by excess soil or by mulch.

Quantities of Peat Free Tree and Shrub Planting Compost:

2-3L Shrubs and Herbaceous	3Litres
5-10L Shrubs	5Litres
25L Specimens	10Litres
Trees	20Litres plus 100g/m ² organic slow release fertiliser

Ensure trees in hard surfaces and in restricted areas are planted in accordance with the appropriate tree planting detail with sufficient volumes of tree soil.

4.4 Tree Support

Unless otherwise specified on drawing all root-balled trees and container grown heavy standard size and over shall be double staked with 100mm diameter stakes and a half-round timber cross-brace fitted to the windward side of the tree within 25mm of the top of the stakes ensuring that the tree is vertical and straight. Stakes are to be securely driven into the ground prior to planting to a height above ground level that is sufficiently low enough to allow free movement of the crown. Secure tree to cross-brace with an adjustable plastic / rubber tie with spacer and buckle (buckle end to be nailed to stake). Each tree should be fitted with a tree irrigation/irrigation system unit fitted to fully surround the root ball in accordance with the details. Refer to specific tree planting details.

Linear root barriers where required should be installed as near to the surface or service route to be protected as possible to provide as much rooting area for the trees as possible. Ensure that there are no sharp objects close to either side of the barrier and that the top edge of the root barrier remains 10mm above the surface on the tree side with no growing medium over the top of the barrier. Overlapping ends should be joined by taping both sides with jointing tape.

4.5 Climber Support

Climber supports are to consist of 3 no. heavy duty wires fixed to, and tensioned by, stainless steel vine eyes screwed to the wall or fence in a fan shape. The base vine eye is to be 250mm from the ground and the top of the wires are to be just below top of the wall or fence. Supporting canes supplied with climbers are to be carefully removed and the climbers are to be fanned out and tied into the support wires with appropriate plant ties.

Specimen self-climbing climbers are to be trained to 1no. vertical, heavy duty plastic coated wire tensioned between 2no. stainless steel vine eyes screwed to the wall or fence, 1no. 250mm from the ground and 1no. 250mm from the top.

All trees and shrubs are to be watered thoroughly, to full ground capacity, immediately after planting and before the application of mulch.

4.6 Mulch

Ensure the area to be mulched is entirely free from annual and perennial weeds and has been watered prior to applying an even spread of mulch to planting areas to control weeds and retain moisture.

Unless instructed otherwise apply good quality bark mulch to a depth of 50 mm over Hy-Tex Ecotex Bio Mulch Mat or equivalent to planting beds, ornamental hedging and tree stations using overlapping sheets as required and peg down using Hy-Tex Bio Pegs at a minimum of 500mm centres (300mm at edges) where a 200mm flap should be buried.

Where stone mulch is requested by the regional office apply 40mm of stone over Planter Geotextile membrane or equivalent pegging down with metal pegs.

Finished mulch levels should be no higher than 15mm below adjacent pavement or grass levels to avoid any spillages.

5 GRASS

5.1 Preparation

The area to be turfed shall be cultivated to a minimum depth of 100mm removing all weeds, debris and stones over 25mm diameter and removing from site. The surface shall be raked to smooth flowing contours with a fine tilt, incorporating pre-seeding, pre-turfing fertiliser at 50g/m².

5.2 Delivery and Storage

Turf shall be supplied in accordance with the most current BS 3969

Turf shall be cultivated high grade turf. It shall be close textured and green in colour and be sufficiently fibrous to withstand handling. Turf rolls shall be regular in shape, 300mm wide and of uniform thickness (minimum 25mm). The turf shall be closely mown and shall not exceed 20mm in height.

Turf shall be stacked in piles of up to 1 metre. It shall not be laid in frosty or waterlogged conditions and shall not be stacked in rolls for more than three days. Any turf deemed to be substandard shall be replaced at the landscape sub-contractors cost.

5.3 Turf

Turling operations shall be in accordance with BS 4428.

Turf should be laid when weather conditions are suitable and not during exceptionally frosty or dry weather conditions.

Turf is to be laid with staggered joints, well butteted together, working from planks positioned on turves already laid.

The turf shall be watered on completion. Any unevenness shall be made good by lifting the turf and adjusting the levels. Should shrinkage occur, fine topsoil shall be brushed into the joints.

Where trees are planted in turfed areas a 750mm diameter circle around each tree is to be kept clear of turf.

5.4 Seeding

All Grass seed shall be sown in March / April or September during calm weather conditions and not when the ground is frost bound or waterlogged. Bring topsoil to a fine tilt, remove stones over 25mm, apply pre-seeding fertiliser at a rate of 50g/m² unless otherwise stated and work into top 50mm during final cultivation. Seed shall be sown in two equal sowings in traverse directions at 35g/m² total unless otherwise stated. After sowing the contractor shall lightly rake the seed into intimate contact with the soil.

7 BIRD BOXES

Install boxes to be fixed where indicated on existing mature trees and/or plots, as recommended in the Ecological Assessment. Installation of all items should be in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and in locations shown on the plan. All products available from Schwegler: (www.schwegler-natur.de).

NOTE: Bat boxes are to be specified on existing mature trees in later phases.

PLAN 1:200

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