

LANDSCAPING IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Land to West of Orchard House,
Credenhill

All landscaping is intended to provide an attractive and sustainable public realm, which enhances the ecological value of the locality. Although some existing trees are to be removed the incorporation of some additional planting will enhance the ecological environment within this area.

The proposed planting will be selected for its appropriateness to the location with the plantings flower and fruit being attractive to many birds and insects.

Site Overview

The site is situated in Credenhill in Herefordshire. The new proposal incorporates 69 dwellings on a site within Credenhill's residential area.

Initial Planting

All planting, and seeding or turfing comprised in the approved details of landscaping shall be carried out during the first planting and seeding seasons following the occupation of the buildings or the completion of the development, whichever is the sooner.

Future Provision

If any plant dies, becomes diseased or fails to thrive within a period of 5 years from the date of planting, or is removed, uprooted, seriously damaged or destroyed shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species, unless permission is sought from the Local Planning Authority to give written consent to any proposed variation.



Horticultural Techniques For Successful Plant Establishment

General

- Proposals to be read in conjunction with Architect's drawings.
- All plants, workmanship & materials to comply with relevant British Standards & Codes of Practice.
All landscape operations to be in accordance with BS4428:1989 – Code of Practice for General landscape Operations, BS3936:1992 – Nursery Stock Specifications for Trees and Shrubs and BS5837: 2005 – Trees in Relation to Construction and all amendments to date. BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations
- Imported top soil to be BS3882, medium texture, neutral pH value, reasonably stone free with no stones over 30mm in size.
- Topsoil to be provided to min. depths of 300mm-450mm for all areas of shrub planting, groundcover & hedging, 150mm for grass areas;
- Organic options are recommended to be incorporated within the planting areas as Insecticidal Soap (Growing Success Bug Killer) or Beneficial Nematodes
- All Planting to have compost & slow release fertiliser incorporated
- Finished topsoil levels to be 25mm above adjacent paved surfaces.
- Tree positions to be first checked on site in relation to final alignments of all drainage & service runs; any necessary precautions or adjustments to be agreed accordingly. Tree planting is based on the dwellings being un-affected by shrinkable subsoil.
- Grass areas to be good quality lawn turf or British Seed Houses A2 Mix Quality Lawn, sown at 35g/sq.m.
- The use of peat or peat based composts is to be avoided.
- The use of pesticides/herbicides to be minimized in the implementation and maintenance of the new landscape scheme to encourage colonisation by a variety of invertebrate species.

Plant Inspection

To be done before accepting a delivery of plants

- Roots: avoid circling, girdling, or kinked roots. Check for burn or freeze damage as well as death, decay, or disease. Choose plants with symmetrically distributed roots.
- Shoots: avoid damaged bark, poor pruning (e.g. topping) and disease. Choose plants with good taper, vigor, and normal growth patterns.

Caring for Plant Material Prior to Planting

- Keep roots cool and moist.
- Heel in off-season material to prevent freeze damage.
- Harden off greenhouse material prior to planting.
- On site, protect plants from excess light and heat, desiccation, etc.

Planting Hole Preparation

- Dependent on existing soil, incorporate a thick layer of native topsoil within the planting borders
- Dig a hole no deeper than the root mass, but at least twice as wide.
- Build a soil mound in the middle of the hole to help spread the roots evenly.
- Remove roots, weeds, large rocks, and other debris from the planting hole.
- Do not add gravel, fertilizers, organic matter, or other amendments to the planting hole.
- Do not loosen or otherwise disturb the soil at the bottom of the hole.
- Cover with a specialist fabric layer to minimise weed growth (weed resistant membrane)
- Stake only if necessary; stakes should be loose and low (bottom 1/3 of plant) and removed after one growing season
- Cut 'X' shaped slits where the Planting Holes are formed



Plant Installation

- Autumn planting is generally best in mild climates; spring plantings require more irrigation.
- Remove existing soil from the roots to prevent soil interface problems.
- Remove all foreign materials – burlap, plastic, tags, etc.
- Orientate the plant so the shoot-root interface is at or slightly above the soil surface.
- Prune out dead, damaged, or diseased roots; excessively long roots may be shortened.
- Prune out damaged, diseased or dead material. Do **not** top prune.
- Place the plant atop the soil mound and spread the roots out evenly.
- Backfill with **unamended** native soil.
- Water the plant well to help settle the soil; if holes appear, fill with native soil.
- Build a soil berm around the planting hole to increase water retention.
- To anchor the outer edges of the fabric to the soil, use plastic pegs, nails, or heavy wire staples.
- Add a 75mm-100mm thick layer of well-drained organic mulch eg wood chips, but keep away from trunks.
- Once it is installed, smooth the mulch with a plastic leaf rake
- Fertilize with fish meal or ammonium sulfate. Do **not** use phosphate-containing fertilizers.
- If needed, use tree shelters or other barriers to keep out herbivores.

Tree Installation

- Tree works are advised to be undertaken between July and September or November and February. Tree works should also avoid the season for nesting birds.
- All tree works should be carried out in accordance with current best practice guidelines and BS3998 – Tree Works. Only natural pruning method to be used.
- The use of an Arboricultural Association Approved Contractor or ISA Certified Arborist/Tree Worker suitably insured and experienced to carry out the tree works is recommended.
- All trees to be positioned on site to avoid conflict with services and supplied with root barriers where necessary to protect services and structure
- If needed, use tree shelters or other barriers to keep out herbivores.
- Base & sides of pits to be well loosened.
- Standard and feathered tree pits to be 900mm x 900mm squares x 600mm deep, filled with good quality topsoil.
- Standard nursery stock trees to be pit planted with single stub stake.
- Extra Heavy Standard trees to be planted in pits 1200mm x 1200mm squares x 750mm deep, filled with good quality topsoil and supported with a double stub stake.
- Multi-stem trees to be planted in topsoil pits 2000mm x 2000mm squares x 750mm depth or larger as necessary to allow 500mm soil around rootball with angled stakes.
- In Areas of High Vandalism or where it is anticipated - Stakes and Mesh Guard should be suitably fixed around the tree as a cage protection.

After Care

- Water new transplants during the first 1-2 dry seasons to help them establish.
- Maintain a mulch layer ≈ 75mm-100mm thick.
- Periodically maintain beds by pulling any weeds that grow from underneath the mulch
- Keep the root zone free of turf and weeds to reduce resource competition.

