

PLANTING SPECIFICATION

1. GENERAL

11. All landscape operatives will be appropriately trained, certified and qualified to undertake the tasks required. When required, the relevant certificates will be made available for inspection. All work is to be carried out in accordance with the relevant British Standards, Codes of Practice and Legislation.

12. All plants shall conform to BS 3996 and be in accordance with the National Plant Specification. Supplying nurseries shall be registered under the HTA Nursery Certification Scheme. All plants shall be packed and transported in accordance with the Code of Practice for Plant Handling as produced by CPSE.

13. Prior to planting soil percolation tests will be undertaken to ensure the soil is free draining and that planting will not become waterlogged. If soil is not free-draining the landscape architect should be informed and advice should be sought from a soil scientist, following which remediation/drainage solutions undertaken to ensure planting will thrive.

14. Planting shall not be carried out when the ground is waterlogged, frost bound or during periods of cold drying winds. All bareroot planting stock will be kept covered until actually planted in order to minimise water-loss and prevent the roots from drying out. Tree handling, storage and planting shall be in accordance with BS 5840 Chapters 9 to 12 and Annexes E to F.

15. 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 defects period shall be replaced by the contractor at his own cost.

16. A minimum intervention approach will be used in terms of weed control. In areas of transplant trees/shrub or ornamental shrub planting this is to be achieved by using mulch mats and hand-weeding. Weed killer and other chemicals will be used as little as possible on site. Spot removal of weeds will be carried out by hand removal as necessary.

2. TREE PLANTING

Ground Preparation and Tree Pit Excavation

21. Where necessary remove existing weeds by hand. Chemical removal using a glyphosate based herbicide will be avoided unless large areas need clearing – following which allow a suitable period to elapse, as recommended by the manufacturer, for the herbicide to take effect.

22. Tree pits of at least 75mm diameter greater than the root system and no deeper than the rootball / container depth are to be excavated and the sides well scaffolded to prevent slumping. All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm in any dimension shall be removed from site.

23. During excavation of the pit, the soil dug should be placed to one side separating topsoil and subsoil as far as is practical.

24. Drainage: prior to tree planting a review of the soil type should be undertaken to ensure that the tree pit base will allow water to percolate, and the pit will not become waterlogged. If free vertical drainage will not occur through the base of the tree pit, then a drainage system must be put in place, such as connection to a land drain or additional excavation to reach the gravel seam. Professional advice should be sought from a soil scientist and, if required, a drainage engineer.

Tree Planting

25. Trees shall be planted as per the planting arrangement as set out on the planting plan and plant schedule.

26. The typical rooting depth for trees is 900mm. The first 300mm shall be made up of topsoil; it shall be ensured that a suitable subsoil provides the remainder of the minimum rooting depth.

27. The root system of the tree should be watered prior to planting. The tree should be planted at the correct depth taking into account the position of the root flare and the finished level – the rootball or root stem transition should be level with the existing host soil or surface. The base of the rootball should typically sit on subsoil, for larger rootballs the subsoil will sit around the lower portion of the rootball.

28. Tree pits should be backfilled with the excavated topsoil, if the original topsoil is not available or deemed unsuitable, a multi-purpose topsoil should be used. Any subsoil excavated should be discarded and the subsoil depth (beyond 300mm deep) backfilled with a high sand content subsoil. Backfill should be added gradually, in layers of 150mm to 230mm depth, ensuring the tree is held upright. At each stage the fill should be firmed in to eliminate all air pockets under and around the root system, but with care being taken not to excessively compact the soil. The final layer should not be consolidated.

29. General-purpose slow release fertiliser (at the rate of 75g/m²) and Tree Planting and Mulching Compost at the rate of (20litres/m²) are to be incorporated into the top 150mm of topsoil during final cultivations.

30. All multi-stem trees are to be staked with a single diagonal stake, driven at 45° to the lead stem.

31. Standard trees are to be single staked with 75mm dia stakes. All extra heavy standard size trees are to be double staked with 75mm dia stakes. Stakes should be driven at least 300mm into undisturbed ground before planting the tree, taking care to avoid underground services and cables etc. and should typically be one third the height of the tree stem above ground.

32. Staked trees shall be secured to stakes with suitable proprietary rubber tree ties and spacers.

33. Immediately after planting, but before applying the below bark mulch, all trees should be saturated to field capacity.

34. Ornamental composted bark mulch will be spread to a depth of 75mm across a 0.8m dia circle around individual trees, ensuring that the root flare and base of the stem, along with any ground cover plants, are not buried.

3. WOODLAND BUFFER PLANTING

Ground Preparation

31. Cut existing rough grass and weeds to between 20mm and 30mm and remove 300x300mm squares of turf.

Planting

32. The minimum overall recommended rooting depth for shrubs is 600mm and for trees is 900mm. The first 300mm shall be made up of multi-purpose topsoil; it shall be ensured that a suitable subsoil provides the remainder of the minimum rooting depth. Before receiving topsoil, subsoils should be loosened using ripping equipment; this shall be done when the subsoil is dry to encourage soil shattering. All stones and other objects larger than 50 mm shall be removed from the prepared surface.

33. Shrub / tree planting is to be as per the planting pattern as set out on the planting plan and planting schedule, with shrubs / trees planted at even spaces into the prepared soil at the specified number per centre, with minimal disturbance to the rootball, and well firmed in. Planting should avoid man-made grids and lines, and should group species together in groups of 5-7 plants. Spread ornamental pine bark mulch to a depth of 75mm to a 900mm diameter around each planting station.

34. All bare-root planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 0.6m (for shrub species) or 1.2m (for tree species) plastic shrub/tree guards, supported with 0.9m (or 1.35m for trees) x 32mm x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.

35. All container-grown planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 600mm plastic shrub shelters, supported with 0.9m x 32mm x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.

Maintenance

36. Using approved herbicides, a 900mm diameter circle centred on each planting station shall be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period. In the autumn following planting the CA will prepare a list of all plants which are dead, dying or diseased and are to be replaced during the following planting season.

37. Within the day of planting climber plants should be saturated to field capacity, this shall be done before applying the below bark mulch.

4. NATIVE SHRUB PLANTING

Ground Preparation

41. Cut existing rough grass and weeds to between 20mm and 30mm and remove 300x300mm squares of turf at 1/m².

Planting

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5. WILDFLOWER MEADOWS GRASSLAND

Preparation

51. Areas of wildflower meadow to be seeded shall be sprayed out with a glyphosate herbicide and cultivated to a depth of 100mm removing all weeds/debris and stones over 75mm diameter. The surface shall be raked to smooth flowing contours with a fine silt.

Seeding

52. Seeds shall be sown either in April/May or September/October during calm weather and not when the ground is frost bound or waterlogged.

53. To achieve an even sowing bulk with an inert carrier, such as sand. Seed shall be sown in two equal sowings in transverse directions at e.g. 4g/m² for Emorsgate EMI Woodland mixture and EMI for General Purpose Meadow Mixture. After sowing the contractor shall roll in the seed to guarantee intimate contact with the soil, ensuring not to rake or cover the seed with soil.

Initial Cut

54. During first 12 months sward to be regularly cut to minimise competition and weed seed production. Cutting should be frequent enough to disperse the cuttings, or if less frequent remove the cuttings. Cutting to be suspended between April and July to allow flowering of the confidial annuals.

55. Both amenity and meadow grass shall be regularly maintained between 25 and 50mm during the first season after sowing. The meadow mixture for seasonally wet areas – EMI5 and EMI2 will then be maintained at a height of approx. 600-1000mm.

6. GENERAL MAINTENANCE

61. 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 defects period shall be replaced by the contractor at his own cost. The site is to be visited monthly throughout the year to undertake the following operations:

- Weed clearance: All planting areas to be kept weed free by hand weeding or herbicide treatment.
- Litter clearance: All litter is to be removed from planting beds.
- Watering: All planted areas are to be watered for the first two years from May to September following any dry periods of 7 days.

Trees and Shrubs

62. All trees are to be watered weekly from May to the end of September unless unnecessary due to heavy rain; to receive 20 gallons of water. All shrubs are to be watered for the first two years from May to September following any dry periods of 7 days. All tree ties and stakes are to be checked and adjusted if too loose, too tight or if chaffing is occurring. Any broken stakes are to be replaced. Any damaged shoots/branches are to be pruned back to healthy wood. Plants are to be pruned in accordance with good horticultural practice to maintain healthy, well-shaped specimens. Native shrubs - Using approved herbicides a 1m diameter circle centred on each planting station shall be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period. Stakes may be removed from Year 2 if plant is fully established and if shelter is suppressing further growth.

Hedges

63. Hedge lines shall be kept mulched until established. At the end of the Defects Liability Period / First Year's Maintenance the CA will prepare a list of all plants which are dead, dying or diseased and are to be replaced during the following planting season at the contractor's expense.

- KEY
- Existing vegetation to be retained with RPA's
 - Existing vegetation to be removed
 - Existing River
 - Existing ProW retained as mown grass route
 - Proposed Tree Planting
 - Proposed Feature Tree Planting
 - Proposed Fruit Tree Planting
 - Proposed Tree Planting in proximity to future development
 - Proposed Native Hedgerow
 - Proposed Woodland copse
 - Proposed Native shrub mix
 - Proposed Thorny shrub mix
 - Proposed Marginal planting
 - Existing long grass
 - Mown short grass
 - Wildflower Meadow mix e.g Emorsgate EMI Basic
 - General Purpose Meadow mixture to be sown at 4/g m².
- Bird Boxes (in groups of 2 – 3 to provide 25 nesting opportunities)
 - Bat Boxes (in groups of 2 – 3 to provide 25 nesting opportunities)
 - Owl Boxes (to provide 6 nesting opportunities)
 - Otter Shelter (6 total)
 - Artificial Otter Holt (1 total)
 - Stock proof fencing around other shelters and holt with 1no gate in each area to allow maintenance/survey access (location confirmed on site)
 - Ecological Pond for Water voles
 - Vegetated Dormouse hopover (6 total)
 - Insect boxes/drilled log piles (30 total)
 - Hedgehog nest boxes (10 total)
 - Reptile hibernacula (10 total)
 - 5 x 5 Skylark plots with bare earth and stock proof fencing (3 total)
- Final location and installation on site is to be supervised by a qualified ecologist to ensure suitability for each species



Ashton Park – River Biss Corridor – Detailed Public Open Space (Sheet 5 of 5)

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