



PLANTING SPECIFICATION

General Guidance

All plant handling to be in accordance with the HTA Handling and establishing landscape plants' Part 1, Part 1 and Part II (obtainable from the Horticultural Trades Association) and the CPRE publication 'Plant Handling' and all planting to conform to National Planting Specification Guidelines.

Contractor to ensure that plants are located to the front of planted species groups as shown on detailed planting plans.

Contractor shall maintain existing levels around the base of existing trees and shall undertake all planting works occurring within root protection areas (RPA) in accordance with BS5837:2012. Contractor shall not remove or relocate any tree protection fencing without prior consent of the client.

Contractor to check the locations of all underground services, existing and proposed, prior to the excavation of any tree pits or shrub beds and identify any potential conflicts to the client / landscape architect.

For the duration of the works the contractor shall keep the site free from injurious weeds as listed in the Weed Act 1955.

All plants should be supplied at the same size and of the same species as specified in the planting schedules on the landscape proposals plan. Any proposed replacement species or deviation from the planting schedules should be highlighted to and agreed with the client prior to installation.

Contractor shall be hardened-off at the Contractor's own nursery or at the source prior to planting out.

All field ground and rootballed trees must be transplanted or undisturbed in the nursery no less than 18 months prior to supply.

The Contractor shall carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable. Planting is not to take place during periods of frost or strong winds.

The Contractor is to ensure that adequate watering and weed control is provided at the time of planting.

Any topsoil retained on site in stockpiles for use in planting works is to be stored in accordance with the DEFRA publication 'Code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites'.

Do not use peat or peat based products.

Prior to planting, planting areas shall be cleared of grass and weeds physically and/or chemically with a proprietary total herbicide and a period of time shall be allowed to elapse as recommended by the manufacturer before commencement of soil preparation for planting.

All plants are to be watered thoroughly before planting stage to ensure rootball is thoroughly soaked prior to final backfilling.

Tree Planting
Generally plant trees in pits with minimum dimensions of:-

- 1000 x 1000 x 700-800mm deep for trees in soft, planted areas including grass/shrub areas and near drains.

Backfill the pits in layers as specified below (from bottom):

- Drainage layer
- 200mm layer of compacted inert free draining gravel or pea shingle, wrapped in geotextile membrane.
- 100mm layer of washed medium-course sand to act as a binding layer between geotextile and soil.

1000mm layer

- 400-500mm layer of retained site-sourced topsoil (free from weeds) or imported topsoil (Multi-purpose grade to BS3882:2015, sandy loam), depth dependent on size of rootball.

Depth of topsoil should only be as deep as the depth of proposed tree to a max. depth of 400-500mm. Should the rootball be larger i.e. 800mm height, then the pit should be increased in depth to suit, but with the difference in depth from the 400-500mm topsoil layer and the drainage layer made up of quality imported free-draining subsoil to BS8801:2013 to avoid topsoil compacting at depths of greater than 500mm.

Likewise, for smaller trees i.e. feathered trees, with more limited rootball/bare root, the depth of topsoil can be reduced to reflect the summing topsoil depths to a max. topsoil depth of 350mm, with the further layer of site-sourced or imported subsoil to BS8801:2013 below to create a total depth of topsoil of between 400-500mm i.e. 150-200mm layer of subsoil. Drainage layer should remain as above.

As stated above, the min. pit size for trees planted in newly created planting areas should be 1m x 1m, however where planting is occurring in dense, undisturbed ground, pits should be dug to approx. 200mm greater than the rootball to limit distribution of surrounding soil structure.

Break up bottom of tree pit to a depth of 200mm and ensure ground is free-draining. Loosen edges of tree pit at time of planting by hand, using a fork to ensure good drainage. Pits should be excavated no greater than 48hrs prior to planting and dewatered as required.

Incorporate a soil conditioner/ameliorant in the form of peat-free tree and shrub compost or well rotted spent mushroom compost or 'Nutricomp' by Greenleaf Ltd (01423 332100) into backfilled topsoil imported topsoil (Multi-purpose grade to BS3882:2015, sandy loam) or a combination of the two as necessary.

Incorporate soil improver 'Nutricomp Arbor' by Greenleaf Ltd (01423 332100) at a rate of 1kg per pit, mixed thoroughly into backfilled topsoil.

Backfill topsoil mix in layers of 150mm, firming at each layer and loosening the pit sides as laid drains. The surface level of the pit should be to approx. 450mm above ground level.

Trees shall be planted in the centre of the excavated pits.

Trees in soft planted areas to be dressed with a minimum 75mm mulch layer, consisting of pine bark fines, particle size 15-50mm to a min. diameter of 1000-1200mm where appropriate.

Semi-mature trees shall be secured by use of a proprietary underground guying system, incorporating guy mats to protect the upper surface of the rootball and secured to the base of the tree pit by use of deadman anchors. Guying supports to be staked in line with the size of the tree as recommended by the manufacturers.

Extra-heavy and heavy standard trees shall be staked and supported with a low, double stake consisting of 20mm 75mm diameter x min. 200mm length, rounded timber posts driven into the ground, 600mm above ground level and fixed to the tree by a proprietary rubber tree tie / horizontal cross support.

Standard trees shall be staked and supported with a low, single stake consisting of 17mm 75mm diameter x min. 200mm length, rounded timber posts driven into the ground at 45 degree angle to support, 450mm above ground level and fixed to the tree by a proprietary rubber tree tie.

Trees shall be installed with proprietary flexible perforated irrigation/irrigation pipe with integral cap. Pipe to be installed equidistant along rootball to the full depth of planting pit, with the final cap section installed just above ground level and sealed securely in place by the adjacent timber stake.

Root barrier membranes shall be installed on the side along the back edge of the kerb / edging restraint to the adjacent hard standing and are to extend a minimum 3m in each direction from a point taken perpendicular from the tree trunk to the kerb/footing line.

Root barrier membranes are to extend to a depth as outlined below:-

- For trees adjacent to hard standings only to use underground services install 'Reveal 300' by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717787) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 600mm, ribs facing tree, joints fixed with joining tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

For services 450mm deep

- For trees adjacent to hard standings incorporating underground services, install the following dependent on the depth of underground services:

For services 800mm deep

- 'Reveal 600' by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717787) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 600mm, ribs facing tree, joints fixed with joining tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

For services deeper than 800mm

- 'Reveal 1000' by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717787) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 2000mm, ribs facing tree, joints fixed with joining tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

Ensure planting conforms to planting matrix where appropriate and in all other areas appears random / natural and not installed in accordance with the planting proposal layouts.

Thicket Planting
Generally clear any surface vegetation in proposed woodland and thicket areas, utilising proprietary herbicide where appropriate and install plants into isolated pre-prepared planting pits, generally 300 x 300 x 450mm deep or 200mm greater than the rootstock, whichever is greater, backfilling with either existing retained site sourced topsoil (free from weeds) or imported topsoil (Multi-purpose grade to BS3882:2015) or a combination of the two as necessary.

Incorporate a soil conditioner/ameliorant in the form of peat-free tree and shrub compost or well rotted spent mushroom compost into backfilled material at the rate of 5g per pit, incorporating a slow release fertiliser e.g. Etnagor (or similar approved) at a rate of 5g per pit.

Ensure planting conforms to planting matrix where appropriate and in all other areas appears random / natural and not installed in accordance with the planting proposal layouts.

Wildflower / Wet Meadow Grass Seeding
Kill off any existing vegetation by spraying off with proprietary herbicide and allow a time to elapse as recommended by the manufacturer before commencing any cultivation works.

If time permits, a 'late seed bed' is to be established, by allowing the dried meadow area to colonise with weeds from the existing soil seed bank following initial cultivation / rotavation and an additional application of proprietary herbicide applied to remove any weed growth.

Areas to be seeded are to be finely graded to bring to a uniform and even grade at the correct finished level and to remove all minor hollows and ridges. All stones and debris greater than 50mm in size to be removed and deposited off-site.

For locations where a hard standing with or without underground services exists on both sides of the tree a grass verge, then a root barrier is to be installed against both kerb / edging faces.

For trees located within hard surfaces themselves i.e. surrounded by hard paved surfaces, install 'Root Director' by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717787) or equal and approved, ref. 1021400, 1400mm x 1400mm x 450mm, plastic root director with integral ribs.

Ornamental Shrub Planting
Plant shrubs and groundcover into pre-prepared planting beds consisting of topsoil to a depth of no greater than 400mm, overlying clean, free-draining subsoil. Topsoil to be either existing retained site sourced topsoil (free from weeds) or imported topsoil imported topsoil (Multi-purpose grade to BS3882:2015, sandy loam) or a combination of the two as necessary.

Subsoil layer to be fully broken-up, to ensure adequate incorporation and adequate free-drainage. For light and non-cohesive subsoils, when ground conditions are reasonably dry, loosen thoroughly to a depth of 300mm (450mm for stiff clay / cohesive soils). Remove all stones and debris greater than 50mm, including roots and tufts of grass. Top 50mm of subsoil to be reduced to a medium tft suitable for first sowing using a grading rack.

Where applicable the use of a small tractor mounted single line ripper is deemed suboptimal layer sufficiently.

Incorporate a soil conditioner/ameliorant in the form of peat-free general-purpose shrub compost or well rotted spent mushroom compost around the planting bed at a 50mm layer at a rate of 300g per m², and incorporate to a depth of 225mm.

Install a proprietary geo-textile weed suppressant membrane onto the surface of the pre-prepared shrub planting beds with minimum 300mm laps. Once planted back in prepared, dig planting holes for shrubs to be to a depth of 200mm and a width of 150mm greater than the source pit size, ensuring that pit walls are loosened to ensure good drainage.

Ensure planting appears random / natural and not formal in accordance with the planting proposal layouts as supplied by the Landscape Architect.

All shrub areas to be dressed with a minimum 75mm mulch layer, consisting of medium chipped tree bark, composted for 2-4 weeks, particle size 15-50mm, laid directly onto weed suppressant membrane.

The contractor shall take the necessary precautions to ensure all shrub areas are protected throughout the establishment period by temporary fencing.

Ornamental Hedge Planting (incl. single species narrow hedges)
Plant hedges into pre-prepared planting trenches, 500-600mm wide for double rows. Planting pits to consist of topsoil to a depth of 350-400mm, mixed with soil conditioner as specified below.

Topsoil to be either, existing retained site-sourced topsoil (free from weeds) or imported topsoil (Multi-purpose grade to BS3882:2015, sandy loam) or a combination of the two as necessary.

Incorporate a soil conditioner/ameliorant in the form of peat-free general-purpose shrub compost or well rotted spent mushroom compost around planting trenches in a 50mm layer at the rate of 300g per m² and incorporate to a depth of 225mm.

Install a proprietary weed suppressant membrane onto the surface of the pre-prepared trench, with minimum 300mm laps. Plant hedge plants into pre-prepared planting pits which are deep enough as to be 200mm greater than the root depth of the supplied plant stock.

All hedge planting areas to be dressed with a minimum 75mm mulch layer, consisting of medium chipped tree bark, composted for 2-4 weeks, particle size 15-50mm, laid directly on weed suppressant membrane.

When not planted against in proposed fence line or wall, hedges to be supported by min. 1000 high timber post and wire fence, consisting of min. 75mm diameter x 2000mm long, rounded timber posts, driven in at 2000mm centres with 3No. galvanised wire supports evenly spaced along the vertical axis of the post. Corner posts and/or staking posts to be additionally supported by 45° angled, 50mm diameter timber staks.

Thicket Planting
Generally clear any surface vegetation in proposed woodland and thicket areas, utilising proprietary herbicide where appropriate and install plants into isolated pre-prepared planting pits, generally 300 x 300 x 450mm deep or 200mm greater than the rootstock, whichever is greater, backfilling with either existing retained site sourced topsoil (free from weeds) or imported topsoil (Multi-purpose grade to BS3882:2015) or a combination of the two as necessary.

Incorporate a soil conditioner/ameliorant in the form of peat-free tree and shrub compost or well rotted spent mushroom compost into backfilled material at the rate of 5g per pit, incorporating a slow release fertiliser e.g. Etnagor (or similar approved) at a rate of 5g per pit.

Ensure planting conforms to planting matrix where appropriate and in all other areas appears random / natural and not installed in accordance with the planting proposal layouts.

Wildflower / Wet Meadow Grass Seeding
Kill off any existing vegetation by spraying off with proprietary herbicide and allow a time to elapse as recommended by the manufacturer before commencing any cultivation works.

If time permits, a 'late seed bed' is to be established, by allowing the dried meadow area to colonise with weeds from the existing soil seed bank following initial cultivation / rotavation and an additional application of proprietary herbicide applied to remove any weed growth.

Areas to be seeded are to be finely graded to bring to a uniform and even grade at the correct finished level and to remove all minor hollows and ridges. All stones and debris greater than 50mm in size to be removed and deposited off-site.

Plant Protection
Where rabbits are a known issue, at woodland and thicket areas are to be fully enclosed by min. 900mm high rabbit proof fencing, supplied as min. 19 Gauge (2mm) galvanised mesh with max. 31mm openings, nailed with galvanised 20mm staples to 50-75mm diameter treated timber stakes at 1.5m centres, incorporating 3No. horizontal galvanised staking wires. Much fence to be heeled into ground 150mm below ground level. Staining posts of 100mm diam timber should be installed every 50m or at every turn of direction 90 degrees or greater.

If additional deer protection fencing is required, all woodland and thicket areas are to be fully enclosed by min. 1.5m proprietary plastic mesh fencing 500mm x 45mm gage) secured to min. 100mm rounded, treated softwood post, driven min. 750mm below ground level at 3.5m centres. Mesh fence to be heeled into ground 100mm below ground level. NB: In areas where rabbits are also a known problem, an additional 300mm high section of min. 19 Gauge galvanised mesh (circular wire) with max. 31mm openings to be fixed to the lower portion of the deer fencing and attached using proprietary plastic cable ties.

Any standard trees in the thicket areas to be watered fully at the time of installation to the full cultivated depth, and that sufficient subsequent watering is carried out to ensure healthy establishment of the grass sward.

All small / feathered trees within woodland/thicket areas to be protected by min. 1200mm high x 80-110mm diam, proprietary plastic mesh tree guards/shield and secured in place with min. 20mm square treated softwood timber stakes and fixed with plastic cable ties. NB: Should red or fallow deer reside in the locality the tree guards/shields should be increased in height to 1.5m.

Any coniferous trees and/or beach transplants (Fagus sylvatica) within woodland/thicket areas must only be protected by open mesh tree guards.

All bushy thicket plants to be protected by min. 600mm high x 170-200mm diam, proprietary plastic mesh shrub shelters / guards and secured in place with treated softwood timber stakes and plastic cable ties.

Emergent Aquatics / Reed / Rush Planting
Areas to be planted with marginal aquatic and reeds should be planted in mid to late spring or early summer, when stages of plants growth can be established on planting blocks.

A marginal shelf should be created around the pond in areas to receive the reed / rush and emergent planting, which should be around 30cm wide from the back edge of the pond profile at the approximate 20-30cm deep 'mean' water level. The shelf should be formed of gravel subsoil and be a relatively flat profile to support the aquatic baskets.

Plants to be supplied in plastic pots or similar and transferred to proprietary plastic mesh aquatic baskets, min. 35 x 35cm for Zones 2A and 2B and min. 11 x 11cm for Zone 1B, before installation to avoid root contamination of adjacent areas. Baskets should be supplied with a fine mesh to avoid soil loss or heaving / sink, baskets for reeds should be of an open plastic mesh to allow maximum flow of water and air into the pot but limit the outward growth of expansive roots. Baskets should be fixed with a 2cm layer of pea shingle or washed gravel, before potting-up of supplied plant stock into basin rich aquatic compost and topped with a further fine layer of pea shingle. Plants should then be set out onto marginal shelf to densities outlined in planting schedule, ensuring baskets are well secured or partially heeled into sub substrate (max 100mm). NB: Only one plant should be installed per basket.

When planting bare-rooted plants in summer, trim back the tops by half and trim the roots back to within 2.5cm of the crown. Aquatic planting baskets should be annually topped up with a small layer of pea shingle or washed gravel to ensure stability of the baskets.

All marginal aquatic plants should receive a single application of slow release organic fertiliser in early summer when water levels are low to allow the incorporation of the fertiliser into the upper compost layers of the aquatic baskets. Any pea shingle or gravel disturbed should be replaced.

General Planting Maintenance
Refer to CSA/3823/108 for Location Plan: Refer to CSA/3823/101-106 for Plot Landscaping Proposals.

Tree - Conifer (Tree)
Qy / Name / Common Name / Age / Height / Form / Girth / Cr/Sm / Bts / Root / Cr/ / Measure Unit / Density (p2/m²) / Centres

1 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

2 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

3 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

4 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

5 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

6 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

7 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

8 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

9 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

10 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

11 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

12 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

13 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

14 / Pinus sylvestris / Scots pine / 10 / 15-20m /

Wildflower seeded areas are to consist of min. 150mm deep existing retained topsoil (free from weeds) subsoil mix (50:50) over existing site subsoil and layer. No imported topsoil should be used in the formation of wildflower meadows. Where feasible/possible topsoil should be fully stripped and seeding conducted into pre-prepared subsoil layer.

Final preparation of the seeded areas shall be carried out as to create a medium tft surface suitable for seeding.

No pre-seeding fertiliser shall be applied.

Wildflower seeded to be undertaken preferably in Spring (Early March to late June) or if not feasible in Autumn (Mid August to October). Where sowing rates are low and sowing is to be undertaken by hand broadcast-seeding, the contractor should mix the seed evenly with a fine, dry sand to bulk up the sowing mixture. Seeding by this method should only be undertaken on calm days with no wind, after seeding, areas are to be hand raked and lightly rolled.

The contractor shall ensure that all seeded areas are watered fully at the time of installation to the full cultivated depth, and that sufficient subsequent watering is carried out to ensure healthy establishment of the grass sward.

Submerged Aquatic Planting
Plants to be supplied in pre-prepared bunches/bunches of min.3-4 stems per bunch and installed at a rate of approximately 4 bunches per square metre in place of 30-40 x 100cm of similar species during mid to late spring or early summer.

Bunches should be potted up into 1 litre (1 x 1cm) aquatic baskets lined with heather, bedded with aquatic, loam-rich compost and topped with pea shingle. Care should be taken to ensure that baskets are secured in place on the base of the pond using galvanised steel pegs where required to maintain depth of 900mm.

Shrub
Qy / Name / Common Name / Age / Height / Form / Girth / Cr/Sm / Bts / Root / Cr/ / Measure Unit / Density (p2/m²) / Centres

1 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

2 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

3 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

4 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

5 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

6 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

7 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

8 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

9 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

10 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

11 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

12 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

13 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

14 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

15 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

16 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

17 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

18 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

19 / Prunus laurocerasus / Obo Layan / 10 / 15-20m /

Herbaceous - Bulb
Qy / Name / Common Name / Age / Height / Form / Girth / Cr/Sm / Bts / Root / Cr/ / Measure Unit / Density (p2/m²) / Centres

1 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

2 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

3 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

4 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

5 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

6 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

7 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

8 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

9 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

10 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

11 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

12 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

13 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

14 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

15 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

16 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

17 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

18 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

19 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

20 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

21 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

22 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

23 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

24 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

25 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

26 / Crocus chrysantheus / Blue Bell / 10 / 15-20m /

Herbaceous - Grass
Qy / Name / Common Name / Age / Height / Form / Girth / Cr/Sm / Bts / Root / Cr/ / Measure Unit / Density (p2/m²) / Centres

1 / Festuca ovina / Sheep's Fescue / 10 / 15-20m /

2 / Festuca ovina / Sheep's Fescue / 10 / 15-20m /

3 / Festuca ovina / Sheep's Fescue / 10 / 15-20m /

4 / Festuca ovina / Sheep's Fescue / 10 / 15-20m /