

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 1 (obtainable from the Horticultural Trades Association) and the CPSE publication 'Plant Handling' and all planting to conform to National Planting Specification Guidelines.

The individual setting-out of the plants on site shall be the responsibility of the contractor and should follow closely the locations shown on the detailed planting proposal drawings supplied by the landscape architect. Contractor to ensure that plants are equally spaced within individual planting groups.

Contractor to ensure that smaller plants are located to the front of plant 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 tree protection areas (TPA) in accordance with BS5832:2012. Contractor shall not remove or relocate any tree protection fence prior without 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.

All sitings shall be kept, the site free from rubbish and debris.

For the duration of the works the contractor shall keep the site free from flytubs weeds as listed in the Weeds Act 1959.

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

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

All field grown and rootballed trees must have been transplanted or undercult in the nursery no less than 18 months prior to supply.

The Contractor shall carry out the 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 weed growth physically and/or chemically with a proprietary translocated 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 as:-

• 1000 x 1000 x 700-800mm deep for trees sited in planted areas including grass/hedge areas and rear gardens.

Backfill the pits in layers as specified below from bottom up:-

Drainage layer

• 200mm layer of compacted inert free draining gravel or pea shingle, wrapped in geo-textile membrane

• 100mm layer of washed medium-course sand to act as binding layer between geotextile and soil.

Topsoil 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 rootball of proposed tree to a max. depth of 400-500mm. Should the rootball be larger i.e. 800mm high, 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 BS8860:2013) to avoid topsoil compaction at depths of greater than 500mm.

Likewise, for smaller trees i.e. feathered trees, with more limited rootballs, the depth of topsoil can be reduced to reflect the surrounding topsoil depths or to a max. topsoil depth of 300mm, with a further layer of site-sourced or imported subsoil (to BS8860:2013) below to create a total depth of growth medium of between 400-500mm to 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 when planting is occurring in clean, undisturbed ground, pits should be dug to approx. 200mm greater than the nominal ball 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/retainer in the form of peat-free general-purpose shrub compost or well rotted sheep mushroom compost along the planting bed in a 50mm layer at a rate of 300g per m², and incorporate to a depth of 225mm.

Initial a proprietary geo-textile weed suppressant membrane onto the surface of the pre-prepared shrub planting beds with minimum 300mm laps. Once planting bed is prepared, dig planting holes for shrubs to be a depth of 200mm and a width of 150mm greater than the source pot size, ensuring that all trees are located 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.

On-omental Hedge Planting (incl. single species native hedges)

Plant hedges into pre-prepared planting trenches. 500-600mm wide for double rows. Planting strips 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/retainer in the form of peat-free general-purpose shrub compost or well rotted sheep mushroom compost along planting trench in a 50mm layer at the rate of 300g per m², and incorporate to a depth of 225mm.

Semi-mature trees shall be secured by use of a proprietary underground guying system, incorporating

Extra-heavy and heavy standard trees shall be staked and supported with a low, double stake consisting of 20mm 75mm diameter x min. 2000mm length, rounded timber posts driven into the ground, 600mm above ground level and fixed to the tree by a proprietary rubber tree tie.

Standard trees shall be staked and supported with a low, single stake consisting of 10mm 75mm diameter x min. 2000mm length, rounded timber posts driven into the ground, 600mm above ground level and fixed to the tree by a proprietary rubber tree tie.

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

Root Barrier Membranes

When trees are proposed in close proximity to hard paved areas or proposed service runs, a root barrier membrane is to be installed as prescribed below.

For all proposed trees located in a location within 3m of an adjacent hard standing/footpath or carway, both the a proprietary root barrier membrane will be installed to protect the hard standing and any underground services located beneath from future damage by tree roots.

Root barrier membrane(s) to be installed on the tree 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/edging face.

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

For services 450mm deep

• For trees adjacent to hard standings only (no underground services), install Rootoc 300 by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717177) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 1000mm, etc facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

For services deeper than 800mm

• Rootoc 2000 by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717177) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 2000mm, etc facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

For services deeper than 1000mm

• Rootoc 2000 by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717177) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 2000mm, etc facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

For services deeper than 1200mm

• Rootoc 2000 by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717177) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 2000mm, etc facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

For services deeper than 1400mm

• Rootoc 2000 by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717177) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 2000mm, etc facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

For services deeper than 1600mm

• Rootoc 2000 by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717177) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 2000mm, etc facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

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

For trees located within hard surfaces themselves i.e. surrounded by hard paved surfaces, install 'Root Director' by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717177) or equal and approved, m. 100x400, 1400mm x 1400mm x 450mm, plastic root director with integral ribs.

On-omental 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 (Multi-purpose grade to BS3882:2015; sandy loam); depth dependent on size of rootball.

Subsoil layer to be fully broken-up to ensure adequate decomposition and alleviate free-drainage. For light and non-cohesive subsoils, when ground conditions are reasonably dry, loosen thoroughly to a depth of 300mm (400mm for stiff clay / concrete 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 till substrate for final shaping using a grading blade.

When applicable the use of a small tractor mounted single tire ripper to decompost subsoil layer sufficiently.

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

Initial a proprietary geo-textile weed suppressant membrane onto the surface of the pre-prepared shrub planting beds with minimum 300mm laps. Once planting bed is prepared, dig planting holes for shrubs to be a depth of 200mm and a width of 150mm greater than the source pot size, ensuring that all trees are located 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.

On-omental Hedge Planting (incl. single species native hedges)

Plant hedges into pre-prepared planting trenches. 500-600mm wide for double rows. Planting strips to consist of topsoil to a depth of 350-400mm, mixed with soil conditioner as specified below.

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Semi-mature trees shall be secured by use of a proprietary underground guying system, incorporating

Extra-heavy and heavy standard trees shall be staked and supported with a low, double stake consisting of 20mm 75mm diameter x min. 2000mm 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 10mm 75mm diameter x min. 2000mm length, rounded timber posts driven into the ground, 600mm above ground level and fixed to the tree by a proprietary rubber tree tie.

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

Root Barrier Membranes

When trees are proposed in close proximity to hard paved areas or proposed service runs, a root barrier membrane is to be installed as prescribed below.

For all proposed trees located in a location within 3m of an adjacent hard standing/footpath or carway, both the a proprietary root barrier membrane will be installed to protect the hard standing and any underground services located beneath from future damage by tree roots.

Root barrier membrane(s) to be installed on the tree 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/edging face.

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

For services 450mm deep

• For trees adjacent to hard standings only (no underground services), install Rootoc 300 by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717177) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 1000mm, etc facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

For services deeper than 800mm

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• Rootoc 2000 by GreenBlue Urban (01424 717177) or equal and approved, ribbed root barrier membrane, to a depth of 2000mm, etc facing tree, joints fixed with jointing tape, install 10mm above final surface level of soil landscaping.

For services deeper than 1400mm

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

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Subsoil layer to be fully broken-up to ensure adequate decomposition and alleviate free-drainage. For light and non-cohesive subsoils, when ground conditions are reasonably dry, loosen thoroughly to a depth of 300mm (400mm for stiff clay / concrete 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 till substrate for final shaping using a grading blade.

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