
Proposed Residential Care Home.
Lower Wokingham road,
Crowthorne, RG45 6BX.
Barchester Healthcare.

GENERAL SOFT LANDSCAPE SPECIFICATION.



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Q28 TOPSOIL AND GROWING MEDIUM.

To be read with Preliminaries/ General conditions.

200 GRADING SUBSOIL.

- General: Grade to smooth flowing contours to achieve specified finished levels of topsoil.
- Areas of thicker topsoil: Excavate locally.

250A SUBSOIL SURFACE PREPARATION

- General: Excavate and/ or place fill to required profiles and levels, as Engineer's specification.
- Loosening: - Light and noncohesive subsoils: When ground conditions are reasonably dry, loosen thoroughly to a depth of 300 mm. - Stiff clay and cohesive subsoils: When ground conditions are reasonably dry, loosen thoroughly to a depth of 450 mm. - Rock and chalk subgrades: Lightly scarify to promote free drainage.
- Stones: Immediately before spreading topsoil, remove stones larger than 75 mm.
- Remove Arisings, contaminants and debris. Ensure at least 500mm of subsoil below all plant beds and grass areas.

Quality of subsoil: to be general purpose sandy clay loam. Soil analysis detailing pH, texture classification, salinity, organic content, phytotoxic and zootoxic element contents with certification and samples required for approval. To be reviewed on site with landscape architect to determine if existing sub soil is suitable.

260 INSPECTING FORMATIONS.

- Give notice: Before spreading topsoil for planting beds and grass areas.
- Notice period: 14 days.

300 TOPSOIL ANALYSIS.

- Soil to be analysed: Imported topsoil and sub soil.
- Soil analyst: contractor's choice.
- Samples: Collect in accordance with BS 3882, Annex A.
- Submit: - Declaration of analysis: Chemical analysis and contaminants, Nutrient content, pH value and textural classification and Textural classification and maximum stone content . - Report detailing soil analyst's recommendations.

310 PREPARATION OF UNDISTURBED TOPSOIL.

- Standard: In accordance with BS 4428 - Grading and cultivation: To suit cultivation operations specified in Q30 & Q31.

- Hard ground: Break up thoroughly.
- Clearing: Remove visible roots and large stones with a diameter greater than 50 mm.
- Areas covered with turf or thick sward: Plough or dig over to full depth of topsoil.
- Fallow period (minimum): Two months.
- Weed control: At appropriate times treat with a suitable translocated non-residual herbicide.

330A SURPLUS TOPSOIL TO BE RETAINED.

- Generally: Spread and level on site: - Locations: to be agreed on site with the Landscape Architect.
- Protected areas: Do not raise soil level within root spread of trees that are to be retained. - Screen soil prior to re-use to ensure no potentially harmful materials. Protect topsoil during works to avoid contamination from building materials.

340 IMPORTED TOPSOIL TO BS 3882.

- Quantity: Provide as necessary to make up any deficiency of topsoil existing on site and to complete the work.
- Standard: To BS 3882.
- Grade: Premium, free draining sandy loam. No topsoil to be supplied for wildflower areas, nutrient low soil to be used.
- Source: Submit proposals.
- Submit: Declaration of analysis including information detailing each of the relevant parameters given in BS 3882, clause 6 and table 2.
- Additional analyses: To be screened prior to spreading to ensure that all potentially harmful materials are removed, and to be inspected prior to handover to ensure all potentially harmful builders waste has been removed (glass, nails, screws etc).

395 PEAT.

- Peat or products containing peat: Do not use.

660 SAMPLE LOAD OF IMPORTED TOPSOIL.

- General: Deliver to site a sample load of not less than 5 m³.
- Give notice: Allow inspection before making further deliveries to site. Retain for comparison with subsequent loads. - Notice period: 14 days.

670 CONTAMINATION.

- General: Do not use topsoil contaminated with subsoil, rubbish or other materials that are: - Corrosive, explosive or flammable. - Hazardous to human or animal life. - Detrimental to healthy plant growth.
- Subsoil: In areas to receive topsoil, do not use subsoil contaminated with the above materials.

- Give notice: If any evidence or symptoms of soil contamination are discovered on the site, or in topsoil to be imported.

680 TOPSOIL STORAGE HEAPS.

- Location: TBA.
- Height (maximum): 1.5 m.
- Width (maximum): 4.0 m.
- Protection: - Do not place any other material on top of storage heaps. - Do not allow construction plant to pass over storage heaps. - Prevent compaction and contamination, by fencing and covering as appropriate.

690 HANDLING TOPSOIL.

- Aggressive weeds: Give notice and obtain instructions before moving topsoil.
- Plant: Select and use plant to minimize disturbance, trafficking and compaction.
- Contamination: Do not mix topsoil with: - Subsoil, stone, hardcore, rubbish or material from demolition work. - Other grades of topsoil.
- Multiple handling: Keep to a minimum. Use or stockpile topsoil immediately after stripping.
- Wet conditions: Handle topsoil in the driest condition possible. Do not handle during or after heavy rainfall or when it is wetter than the plastic limit as defined by BS 3882, Annex N2.

700A SPREADING TOPSOIL.

- Temporary roads/surfacing: Remove before spreading topsoil.
- Layers: - Depth (maximum): 150 mm. - Gently firm each layer before spreading the next.
- Depths after firming and settlement (minimum): 150 mm for grass areas, 450mm for planting beds. NOTE: 200mm for 'pitch' areas.
- Crumb structure: Do not compact topsoil. Preserve a friable texture of separate visible crumbs wherever possible.

710 LOOSE TIPPING OF TOPSOIL.

- General: Do not firm, consolidate or compact topsoil when laying. Tip and grade to approximate levels in one operation with minimum of trafficking by plant.
- Depths after settlement (minimum): 150 mm.

910 FINISHED LEVELS OF TOPSOIL AFTER SETTLEMENT.

- Above adjoining paving or kerbs: 30 mm.
- Below dpc of adjoining buildings: Not less than 150 mm.
- Shrub areas: Higher than adjoining grass areas by 35 mm.
- Within root spread of existing trees: Unchanged.
- Adjoining soil areas: Marry in.
- Thickness of turf or mulch: Included.

Q30 SEEDING AND TURFING.

To be read with Preliminaries/General conditions.

GENERAL INFORMATION/REQUIREMENTS.

115 SEEDED AND TURFED AREAS.

- Growth and development: Healthy, vigorous grass sward, free from the visible effects of pests, weeds and disease.
- Appearance: A closely knit, continuous ground cover of even density, height and colour.

120 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

- General: Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable.

145 WATERING.

- Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
- Application: Even and without displacing seed, seedlings or soil.
- Frequency: As necessary to ensure the establishment and continued thriving of all seeding/turfing.

150 WATER RESTRICTIONS.

- Timing: If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation do not carry out seeding/turfing until instructed. If seeding/turfing has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering.

160 NOTICE.

- Give notice before: - Setting out. - Applying herbicide. - Applying fertilizer. - Preparing seed bed. - Seeding or turfing. - Visiting site during maintenance period.
- Period of notice: 1 week.

170 SETTING OUT.

- Boundaries: Mark clearly.
- Delineation: In straight lines or smoothly flowing curves as shown on drawings.

205 PREPARATION MATERIALS.

- General: Free from toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life.

- Certification of source, analysis, suitability for purpose and absence of harmful substances: Submit.
- Certified materials: Composted animal manures, Composted horticultural waste, Sanitized and stabilized compost and Spent mushroom compost. Give notice: before ordering or using.

210 HERBICIDE FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS.

- Type: Suitable for suppressing perennial weeds.
- Timing: Allow fallow period before cultivation. - Duration: As manufacturer's recommendation.

212 SEED BED CLEANING BEFORE SOWING ALL GRASSED AREAS.

- Operations: Kill pernicious weeds with selective contact herbicide.

226 COMPOST FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS.

- Type: Sanitized and stabilized compost.
- Standard: In accordance with PAS 100.
- Supplier: Submit proposals. - Product reference: Submit proposals.
- Standard: To PAS 100.
- Horticultural parameters: - pH (1:5 water extract): 7.0-8.7. - Electrical conductivity (maximum, 1:5 water extract): 200 mS/m. - Moisture content (m/m of fresh weight): 35-55%. - Organic matter content (minimum): 25%. - Grading (air dried samples): 99% passing 25 mm screen, and 90% passing 10 mm screen mesh aperture. - Carbon:Nitrogen ratio (maximum): 20:1.
- Texture: Friable.
- Objectionable odour: None.
- Composting Association certification: Not required.
- Declaration of analysis: Submit.
- Samples: Supply 5 kg sample before ordering.
- Application rate: 50 mm thick layer.
- Timing: Apply prior to cultivation.

231 PEAT.

- Peat or products containing peat: Do not use.

250 CULTIVATION.

- Compacted topsoil: Break up to full depth.
- Soil ameliorant/ Conditioner/ Fertilizer: Fully incorporate into topsoil to a depth of 100 mm.
- Tilth: Reduce topsoil to a tilth suitable for blade grading. - Depth: 100 mm. - Particle size (maximum): 10 mm.
- Material brought to the surface: Remove stones and clay balls larger than 50 mm in any dimension, roots, tufts of grass, rubbish and debris.

260 GRADING.

- Topsoil condition: Reasonably dry and workable.
- Contours: Smooth and flowing, with falls for adequate drainage. - Hollows and ridges: Not permitted.
- Finished levels after settlement: 25 mm above adjoining paving, kerbs, manholes etc.
- Blade grading: May be used to adjust topsoil levels provided depth of topsoil is nowhere less than 150 mm.
- Give notice: If required levels cannot be achieved by movement of existing soil.

270 FERTILIZER FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS.

- Types: Apply both: - Superphosphate with a minimum of 18% water soluble phosphoric acid. - A sulfate of ammonia with a minimum of 20% nitrogen.
- Application: Before final cultivation and three to five days before seeding/turfing.
- Coverage: Spread evenly, each type at 70 g/m², in transverse directions.

280 FINAL CULTIVATION.

- Timing: After grading and fertilizing.
- Seed bed: Reduce to fine, firm tilth with good crumb structure. - Depth: 25 mm. - Surface preparation: Rake to a true, even surface, friable and lightly firmed but not over compacted. - Remove surface stones/earth clods exceeding: General areas: 20 mm. Fine lawn areas: 10 mm.
- Adjacent levels: Extend cultivation into existing adjacent grassed areas sufficient to ensure full marrying in of levels.

SEEDING 311C GRASS SEED FOR GENERAL PURPOSE.

- Supplier: Emorsgate Seeds or similar. - Mixture reference: EG22 Strong Lawn Grass Mixture.
- Application rate: 25 g/m².

312 SEED MIXTURE FOR WILD FLOWER AREAS.

- Supplier: See landscape proposals for details. Example, Scotia Seeds or similar. - Mixture reference: MG5 Meadow Mix. • Origin (as defined in the National Plant Specification): Native UK. • Application rate: 3 g/m².

312 SEED MIXTURE FOR SUDS EMBANKMENTS.

- Supplier: Barenbrug Seeds or similar. - Mixture reference: E16 Landscape and Embankments • Origin (as defined in the National Plant Specification): Native UK.
- Application rate: 25 g/m².

319 QUALITY OF SEED FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS.

- Freshness: Produced for the current growing season.

- Certification: Blue label certified varieties. - Standard: EC purity and germination regulations. - Official Seed Testing Station certificate of germination, purity and composition: Submit when requested.

- Samples of mixtures: Submit when requested.

330 SOWING.

- General: Establish good seed contact with the root zone.
- Method: To suit soil type, proposed usage, location and weather conditions during and after sowing. Distribution: 2 equal sowings at right angles to each other and diagonally to main axis.

335 GRASS SOWING SEASON.

- Grass seed generally: April to June or August to October.

336 WILDFLOWER SOWING SEASON.

- Wildflower seed generally: March to May or August to October.

352 EDGES TO SEEDED AREAS ADJACENT TO PLANTING BEDS AND TREE PITS.

- Timing: After seeded areas are well established.
- Edges: Clean straight lines or smooth curves. - Mulch and soil: Draw back to permit edging.
- Arisings: Remove.
- Completion: Respread soil and mulch.

TURFING

405 CULTIVATED TURF:

Supplier: Turfgrass Growers Association (TGA) member, to TGA quality standards. Seed mixture: 40% Lex 86 Perennial Ryegrass, 20% Frida Chewings Fescue, 30% Diego Strong Creeping Fescue, 10% Highland Browntop Bent, or similar approved. Properties of soil used for turf production: to be approved.

420 DELIVERY AND STORAGE: Timing: Lay turf with minimum possible delay after lifting. If delay occurs, lay turf out on topsoil and keep moist. Frosty weather or waterlogged ground: Do not lift turf. Delivery: Arrange to avoid need for excessive stacking. Stacking height (maximum): 1 m. Dried out or deteriorated turf: Do not use.

423 INSPECTION OF TURF: Give notice: Before lifting turf - 2 days.

430 TURFING GENERALLY: Time of year: September to October, April to May. Timing of laying: - Spring and summer: Within 18 hours of delivery. - Autumn and winter: Within 24 hours of delivery. Weather conditions: Do not lay turf when persistent cold or drying winds are likely to occur or soil is frost bound, waterlogged or excessively dry. Working access: Planks laid on previously laid turf. Do not walk on prepared bed or newly laid turf. Jointing: Laid with broken joints, well butted up. Do not stretch turf. Edges: Whole turfs, trimmed to a true line. Adjusting levels: Remove high spots and fill hollows with fine soil. Consolidating: Lightly and evenly firm as laying proceeds to ensure full contact with substrate. Do not use rollers. Dressing, brushed well in to completely fill all joints: to all areas.

Watering: Thoroughly water completed turf immediately after laying. Check that water has penetrated into the soil below.

440 TURFING ON BANKS EXCEEDING 30° SLOPE: Turf configuration: Diagonal or horizontal. Securing turfs: - Fixings: pointed softwood pegs, 200mm long x 25mm square. - Frequency of fixings: as necessary to secure turf effectively. Removal of fixings: when turf is well established.

PROTECTING/CUTTING.

530 FIRST CUT OF GRASSED AREAS.

- Timing: When grass is reasonably dry. - Height of initial growth: 40-75 mm.
- Preparation: - Debris and litter: Remove. - Stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension: Remove.
- Height of first cut: 25 mm.
- Mower type: Contractor's choice.
- Arisings: Remove from site.

540A FIRST CUT OF WILDFLOWER AREAS.

- Preparation: - Debris and litter: Remove. - Stones and earth clods larger than 25 mm in any dimension: Remove.
- Height of first cut: Autumn sown: in March cut to 4-7cm if there is sufficient material. Spring sown: 6 weeks after sowing cut to 4-7cm.
- Mower type: Contractor's choice.
- Arisings: Remove from site.

590 CLEANLINESS.

- Soil and arisings: Remove from hard surfaces.
- General: Leave the works in a clean, tidy condition at Completion and after any maintenance operations.

MAINTENANCE.

605 MAINTENANCE.

- Duration: Carry out the following operations from completion of seeding/ turfing until the end of the defects liability period.

610 FAILURES OF SEEDING/TURFING.

- Defective materials or workmanship: Areas that have failed to thrive. - Exclusions: Theft or malicious damage.
- Method of making good: Recultivation and reseeding/ returfing.
- Timing of making good: within 21 days of instruction.

620 MAINTAINING GENERAL GRASSED AREAS.

- Maximum height of growth at any time: 50 mm.
- Preparation: Before each cut remove all litter and debris.
- Cutting: As and when necessary to a height of 25 mm. - Arisings: Spread evenly over cut areas.
- Bulb planting areas: Do not cut until bulb foliage has died down.
- Trimming: All edges. - Arisings: Remove.
- Weed control: Substantially free of broad leaved weeds. - Method: Application of a suitable selective herbicide.
- Stones brought to the surface: Remove regularly. - Size: Exceeding 25 mm in any dimension.
- Areas of settlement: Make good.
- Watering: as required to ensure grass thrives.

680 MAINTENANCE FERTILIZER FOR ALL GRASSED AREAS EXCEPT WILDFLOWER MEADOWS.

- March application: 15:10:10 Spring turf fertilizer at 35 g/m².
- September application: 5:10:10 Autumn turf fertilizer at 50 g/m².

Q31 EXTERNAL PLANTING. To be read with Preliminaries/General conditions.**GENERAL INFORMATION/ REQUIREMENTS.****112 SITE CLEARANCE GENERALLY.**

- General: Remove rubbish, concrete, metal, glass, decayed vegetation and contaminated topsoil.
- Stones: Remove those with any dimension exceeding 50 mm.
- Contamination: Remove material containing toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life.
- Vegetation: Clear scrub to ground level by flail mowing and remove arisings; retain and protect trees indicated on drawings.
- Large roots: Grub up and dispose of without undue disturbance of soil and adjacent areas.
- Additional requirements: Remove remnants of old fence posts and mesh and any concrete bases, concrete footing overflows resulting from hardworks to ensure full planting depth is achievable to every bed.

118 SOIL CONDITIONS.

- Soil for cultivating and planting: Moist, friable and (excepting aquatic/ marginal planting) not waterlogged.

- Frozen or snow-covered soil: Give notice before planting. Provide additional root protection. Prevent planting pit sides and bases and backfill materials from freezing.

120 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS.

- General: Carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable. - Strong winds: Do not plant.

125 TIMES OF YEAR FOR PLANTING.

- Deciduous trees and shrubs: Late October to late March.
- Conifers and evergreens: September/ October or April/ May.
- Herbaceous plants (including marginal): September/ October or March/ April.
- Container grown plants: At any time if ground and weather conditions are favourable. - Watering and weed control: Provide as necessary.
- Dried bulbs, corms and tubers: September/ October.
- Colchicum (crocus): July/ August.
- Green bulbs: After flowering in spring.
- Wildflower plugs: Late August to mid-November or March/ April.
- Aquatic plants: May/ June or September/ October.

130 MECHANICAL TOOLS.

- Restrictions: Do not use within 100 mm of tree and plant stems.

145 WATERING.

- Quantity: Wet full depth of topsoil.
- Application: Even and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
- Frequency: As necessary to ensure establishment and continued thriving of planting.

150 WATER RESTRICTIONS.

- General: If water supply is or is likely to be restricted by emergency legislation, do not carry out planting until instructed. If planting has been carried out, obtain instructions on watering.

160 NOTICE.

- Give notice before: - Setting out. - Applying herbicide. - Applying fertilizer. - Delivery of plants/ trees. - Planting shrubs. - Planting trees into previously dug pits. - Watering. - Visiting site during maintenance period. • Period of notice: 2 weeks.

165 PREPARATION, PLANTING AND MULCHING MATERIALS.

- General: Free from toxins, pathogens or other extraneous substances harmful to plant, animal or human life.
- Certification of source, analysis, suitability for purpose and absence of harmful substances: Submit. - Certified materials: all compost materials. Give notice before ordering or using.

200 PLANTS/ TREES – GENERAL.

- Condition: Materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy and vigorous.
- Appearance: Of good shape and without elongated shoots.
- Hardiness: Grown in a suitable environment and hardened off.
- Health: Free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders.
- Budded or grafted plants: Bottom worked.
- Root system and condition: Balanced with branch system. - Standard: The National Plant Specification.
- Species: True to name.
- Origin/ Provenance: Grown in the United Kingdom for at least one growing season, unless otherwise approved. Definition: Origin and Provenance have the meaning given in the National Plant Specification.

215 PLANTS/ TREES - SPECIFICATION CRITERIA.

- Name, forms, dimensions, provenance and other criteria: As scheduled and defined in the National Plant Specification.

225 BULBS/ CORMS/ TUBERS.

- Condition: Firm, entire, not dried out or shrivelled.
- Health: Free from pests, diseases and fungus.
- Handling: Remove from packaging immediately.
- Storage: Permitted only when necessary. - Location: Well ventilated, dark, covered, rodent proof container, away from exhausts and fruit. - Duration: Minimum period. Temperature: 18-21°C.

235 CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS/ TREES.

- Growing medium: With adequate nutrients for plants to thrive until permanently planted.
- Plants: Centred in containers, firmed and well-watered.
- Root growth: Substantially filling containers, but not root bound, and in a condition conducive to successful transplanting.
- Hardiness: Grown in the open for at least two months before being supplied.
- Containers: With holes adequate for drainage when placed on any substrate commonly used under irrigation systems.

245 LABELLING AND INFORMATION.

- General: Provide each plant/ tree or group of plants/ trees of a single species or cultivar with supplier's labelling for delivery to site, showing: - Full botanical name. - Total number. - Number of bundles. - Part bundles. - Supplier's name. - Employer's name and project reference. - Plant specification, in accordance with scheduled National Plant Specification categories.

- Additional information: Submit on request: Date supplied and consignment details or reference.

260 PLANT/ TREE SUBSTITUTION.

- Plants/ trees unobtainable or known to be likely to be unobtainable at time of ordering: Submit alternatives, stating: - Price. - Difference from specified plants/ trees.
- Approval: Obtain before making any substitution.

265 PLANT HANDLING, STORAGE TRANSPORT AND PLANTING.

- Standard: To HTA 'Handling and establishing landscape plants'.
- Frost: Protect plants from frost.
- Handling: Handle plants with care. Protect from mechanical damage and do not subject to shock, e.g. by dropping from a vehicle.
- Plant packaging: Coextruded polyethylene bags with black interior and white exterior.
- Packaging of bulk quantities: Pallets or bins sealed with polyethylene and shrink wrapped.
- Planting: Upright or well balanced with best side to front.

285 PROTECTION OF EXISTING GRASS.

- General: Protect areas affected by planting operations using boards/ tarpaulins. - Excavated or imported material: Do not place directly on grass. Duration: Minimum period.

290 SURPLUS MATERIAL.

- Subsoil, stones, debris, wrapping material, canes, ties, temporary labelling, rubbish, prunings and other arisings: Remove.

PREPARATION OF PLANTING BEDS/ PLANTING MATERIALS.

300 HERBICIDE TO CLEAR OVERGROWN BEDS.

- Locations: All planting areas.
- Type: Suitable for suppressing perennial weeds.
- Timing: Allow fallow period before cultivation. - Duration (minimum): As manufacturer's recommendation.

305 WEED CONTROL FOR INVASIVE NON-NATIVE WEEDS.

- Locations: All planting areas.
- General: Prevent weeds from seeding and perennial weeds from becoming established, by hand weeding.

341 PEAT.

- Peat or products containing peat: Do not use.

361 COMPOST PLANTING BEDS.

- Locations: All planting areas.

- Type: Sanitized and stabilized compost.
- Manufacturer/ Supplier: Submit proposals. - Product reference: Submit proposals.
- Standard: To PAS 100.
- Horticulture parameters: - pH (1:5 water extract): 7.0-8.7. - Electrical conductivity (maximum, 1:5 water extract): 200 mS/m. - Moisture content (m/m of fresh weight): 35-55%. - Organic matter content (minimum): 25%. - Grading (air dried samples): 99% passing 25 mm screen, and 90% passing 10 mm screen mesh aperture. - Carbon:Nitrogen ratio (maximum): 20:1.
- Texture: Friable.
- Objectionable odour: None.
- Composting Association certification: Required.
- Application: Spread evenly. - Timing: Apply prior to cultivation. - Rate: 50 mm thick layer.
- Other requirements: Note: The goal of adding compost is to create a soil that closely resembles a loam soil and possesses a minimum of 5% organic matter by content (dry weight). Therefore the amount of compost to be applied may be increased or decreased as instructed by the landscape architect dependant upon the condition of the topsoil to be used - topsoil testing is covered under Q28.

375 CULTIVATION.

- Compacted topsoil: Break up to full depth.
- Cultivation: Loosen, aerate and break up soil into particles of 2-8 mm. - Depth: initial cultivation to 300mm, then cultivate the top 200mm (min) after the soil ameliorant is applied. - Timing: Within a few days before planting. - Weather and ground conditions: Suitably dry.
- Surface: Leave regular and even.
- Levels: 25 mm above adjoining paving or kerbs and Minimum 150 mm below dpc of adjoining buildings.
- Undesirable material brought to the surface: Remove visible weeds, roots and large stones with any dimension exceeding 50 mm.
- Soil within root spread of trees and shrubs to be retained: Do not dig or cultivate.

PLANTING SHRUBS/ HERBACEOUS PLANTS/ BULBS.

405 SHRUB PLANTING PITS.

- Timing: Excavate 1-2 days (maximum) before planting.
- Sizes: 150 mm wider than roots when fully spread and 200 mm deep.
- Pit bottom improvement Break up to a depth of 150 mm, incorporating 10 kg compost.
- Backfilling material: as clause 476.

435 CLIMBING PLANTS USED AS GROUND COVER.

- Planting: - Canes or other supports: Remove. - Arrangement: Spread stems.

- Fixing: Pinned to ground to ensure good contact.

445 PLANTING BULBS/ CORMS/ TUBERS.

- Depth: Top of bulb/ corm/ tuber at a depth of approximately twice its height, base in contact with bottom of hole.
- Backfilling: Finely broken soil. Lightly firm to existing ground level.
- Naturalized planting in existing grassed areas: - Scattering: Random. Plant bulbs/ corms/ tubers where they fall. - Planting: Neatly remove a plug of turf and replace after planting.

470 FORMAL HEDGES.

- Shrubs for hedges: Consistent in species, cultivar and clone to ensure a uniform hedge.
- Planting: In trenches large enough to take full spread of roots. Set out plants evenly.

476 SHRUB, HERBACEOUS AND BULB BACKFILLING MATERIAL.

- Composition: Previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required:
- Ameliorant/ Conditioner: as clause 361. - Application rate: mix topsoil: compost at 3:1.
- Fertilizer: Not required. - Application rate: -.

480 AFTER PLANTING.

- Watering: Immediately after planting, thoroughly and without damaging or displacing plants or soil.
- Firming: Lightly firm soil around plants and fork and/ or rake soil, without damaging roots, to a fine tilth with gentle cambers and no hollows.
- Top dressing: Not required during the 1st growing season. Apply a slow-release fertiliser at beginning of the second growing season.

485 MULCHING PLANTING BEDS.

- Material: Fine grade 100% bark mulch free from any foreign matter or other timbers. - Purity: Free of pests, disease, fungus and weeds.
- Preparation: Clear all weeds. Water soil thoroughly.
- Coverage: 50 mm depth.

PLANTING TREES.

505 TREE PITS.

- Sizes: 1000x1000x1000.
- Sloping ground: Maintain horizontal bases and vertical sides with no less than minimum depth throughout.
- Pit bottoms: With slightly raised centre. Break up to a depth of 150 mm. - Treatment: Soil ameliorant worked into pit bottoms and as per the tree pit planting detail.

- Pit sides: Scarify. • Backfilling material: as clause 586.
- Accessories: As detail drawings for tree pits.

510 TREE PIT ROOT BARRIERS

- Locations: Wherever the installed rootball will be within 2.0 m of a building foundation, wherever the installed rootball will be within 3.0 m of an existing underground service route or for trees planted within hard surface.
- Manufacturer: Submit proposals.
- Product reference: Submit proposals.
- Depth of top of root barrier below finished soil level: to be confirmed.
- Installation: With sides vertical.

535 STAKING GENERALLY

- Stakes: Softwood, peeled chestnut, larch or oak, straight, free from projections and large or edge knots and with pointed lower end. - Preservative treatment: To provide a 20 year service life.

Stained black.

- Nails: To BS 1202-1, galvanized, minimum 25 mm long and with 10 mm diameter heads.
- Stake size (minimum): 75mm.

565 LOW DOUBLE STAKING FOR ALL TREES UP TO HEAVY STANDARD SIZE

- Staking: Drive stakes vertically at least 300 mm into bottom of pit on either side of tree position before planting. - Backfilling: Consolidate material around stakes.
- Height of stakes: Cut off just below lowest branch of tree.
- Cross bar: Wood, as stake. - Firmly fix on windward side of tree and as close as possible to stem.
- Ties: Naturetie or rubber tie and flat back spacer.
- Tying: Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to cross bar.

586 TREE BACKFILLING MATERIAL.

- Composition: Previously prepared mixture of topsoil excavated from pit and additional topsoil as required.
- Ameliorant/ Conditioner: as clause 361. - Application rate: 4:1 ratio topsoil: compost.

• 590 MULCHING TREES.

- Material: Fine grade bark mulch. - Purity: Free of pests, disease, fungus and weeds.
- Preparation: Clear all weeds. Water soil thoroughly.
- Coverage: In a circular area of 500 mm radius measured from the tree stem at 50mm depth.
- Finished level of mulch: 0 mm below adjacent grassed or paved areas.

PROTECTING/ MAINTAINING/ MAKING GOOD DEFECTS.

710 MAINTENANCE.

- Duration: Carry out the operations in the following clauses from completion of planting until end of defects liability period.
- Frequency of maintenance visits: Fortnightly during growing season.

720 FAILURES OF PLANTING.

- Defects due to materials or workmanship not in accordance with the Contract: Plants/ trees/ shrubs that have failed to thrive. - Exclusions: Theft or malicious damage after completion. - Rectification: Replace with equivalent plants/ trees/ shrubs.
- Replacements: To match size of adjacent or nearby plants of same species or match original specification, whichever is the greater.

740 CLEANLINESS.

- Soil and arisings: Remove from hard surfaces and grassed areas.
- General: Leave the works in a clean tidy condition at completion and after any maintenance operations.

750 PLANTING MAINTENANCE GENERALLY.

- Weed control: Maintain weed free area around each tree and shrub. - Diameter (minimum): The larger of 1 m or the surface of original planting pit. - Keep planting beds clear of weeds: By maintaining full thickness of mulch and hand weeding.
- Planted areas: Fork over beds as necessary to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows. Take care not to reduce depth or effect of mulch.
- Precautions: Ensure that trees and shrubs are not damaged by use of mowers, nylon filament rotary cutters and similar powered tools.
- Staking: Check condition of stakes, ties, guys and guards. - Broken or missing items: Replace. - Rubbing: Prevent. - Ties: Adjust to accommodate growth. - Damage to bark: Cut back neatly with sharp knife. Prevent further damage. - Frequency of checks: At each scheduled maintenance visit. • Firming up: Gently firm loosened soil around trees/ shrubs. Straighten leaning trees/ shrubs.
- Trees: Spray crown when in leaf during warm weather. - Timing: After dusk.
- Watering: as required to ensure all trees and shrubs thrive and as instructed.
- Fertiliser: Bonemeal/ slow-release fertiliser. Application: 135/gms/m2.

755 PLANTING MAINTENANCE – FERTILIZER.

- Time of year: March or April.
- Fertilizer: safe organic slow release. - Manufacturer: Contractor's choice. - Product reference: Bonemeal 4+19+0.
- Application: Evenly spread, carefully incorporating below mulch materials.
- Application rate: 135 grams per m2.

760 PLANTING MAINTENANCE – PRUNING.

- General: Prune to promote healthy growth and natural shape. - Dead, dying, diseased wood and suckers: Remove. - Timing: As appropriate to the species. - Trees: Favour a single central leading shoot. • Arisings: Remove

780 MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS.

- General: Before end of the maintenance period, submit printed instructions recommending procedures to be established by the Employer for maintenance of the planting work for one full year: Provide a schedule of any ongoing maintenance problems experienced during the defects liability period and any special procedures to be carried out .

790 FINAL MULCHING. • Timing: At end of the maintenance period.

- Watering: Ensure that soil is thoroughly moistened prior to remulching, applying water where necessary.
- Planting beds: Remulch. Depth (minimum): 50 mm.
- Trees: Remulch. Depth (minimum): 50 mm.