

Landscape Planting & Maintenance Plan

Planting Specifications & Schedules, Maintenance, Inspection & Replacement Planting

Spencers Wood Solar Farm
Land North Of Sheepbridge Court Farm,
Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield, RG7 1PT

Planning permission: 232653
Planning Condition: 13

DOCUMENT INFORMATION & CONTROL

INFORMATION

GTPUK/Our Project Reference	2021-0085_Spencers Wood
Local Planning Authority:	Wokingham Borough Council
Local Planning Authority Reference:	232653
Planning Condition:	13

CONTROL

Date	Version	Author	Reviewer	Approver
20/09/2025	1	JJ	JJ	JJ

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

This document is to be read in conjunction with:

- ◆ Site/Landscape Plan Rev.7 dated 15/09/2025 drawn by greentech

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document provides the detailed specification for the execution and subsequent inspection, maintenance and defects replacement, during the initial 5 year defects/maintenance period, of the soft landscape works associated with the construction and operation of the for the approved solar farm development Spencers Wood Solar Farm, Land North Of Sheepbridge Court Farm, Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield, RG7 1PT. It should be read in conjunction with the Site/Landscape Plan Rev.9 dated 01/12/25 drawn by greentech. The landscape planting plan and its management is an integral aspect of the solar farm investment.

- 1.2 The plan is being submitted to confirm compliance with condition 13 of the planning permission. The condition reads as follows:

Prior to the commencement of the development, hard and soft landscaping schemes shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. These details shall include, as appropriate, proposed finished floor levels or contours, means of enclosure, car parking layouts, other vehicle and pedestrian access and circulation areas, hard surfacing materials and minor artefacts and structure (e.g. furniture, play equipment, refuse or other storage units, signs, lighting, external services, etc). The soft landscaping scheme shall include planting plan, specification (including cultivation and other operations associated with plant and grass establishment), schedules of plants, noting species, planting sizes and proposed numbers/densities where appropriate, and implementation timetable. All hard and soft landscape works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details prior to the occupation of any part of the development or in accordance with a timetable approved in writing by the local planning authority. Any trees or plants which, within a period of five years after planting, are removed, die or become seriously damaged or defective, shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of species, size and number as originally approved and permanently retained.

- 1.3 This document includes a schedule of detailed planting proposals and plans consistent with the approved plans as set out below:

Figure 1.2a Site Layout Plan dated 15/04/2024 drawn by ITP Energised
0190-05-03-1000 Figure 6.5 – Outline Landscape Mitigation Strategy drawn by Stephenson Halliday
Ashfield Solutions Group Flood Risk & Drainage Assessment ref: 155622-F01 (FRDA) dated 08/03/2023

- 1.4 A more detailed site landscape plan has now been drawn up and includes:
Swales in accordance with the Flood Risk & Drainage Assessment and extended in places.
Reduced track length with removal of the hammerheads
Additional hedgerow planting set away from powerlines to create continuous species rich hedgerows
Trees along the north and south boundaries
A wider separation between the existing solar farm and the proposed solar farm where the public footpath is located.
Tree planting and mammal gates within the fence line.

- 1.5 Where not otherwise stated all works, inspection and maintenance are to be in accordance with BS3936 (Part 1, 1992, Nursery Stock, Specifications for trees and shrubs), BS4428:1989 – General Landscape Operations and Hedgelink 'The Complete Hedge Good Management Guide'.
- 1.6 Once planted hedgerow, shrub and tree planting and meadow are to be managed in accordance with the approved Landscape Planting Plan, this document, BS 3998: 2010 and Hedgelink 'The Complete Hedge Good Management Guide'.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

- 2.1 The site comprises two large fields bounded by hedgerows, with the eastern field having open aspects to the east and south. The hedgerows in the western field are more intact and include mature trees. There is a group of mature trees on neighbouring land at the north-east corner of the eastern field. As a result of the solar farm proposal these hedgerows are to be augmented with additional planting to strengthen their structure and additional new hedgerows and shrub areas planted. The fields will be transformed into wildflower meadows.

3. GENERAL PLANTING SPECIFICATIONS

- 3.1 The hedge, shrub and tree planting works shall be undertaken in the first available bare root planting season (November to March) following installation of the solar farm.
- 3.2 All hedge, shrub and tree plants shall be good quality stock that complies with the relevant parts of the National Plant Specification.
- 3.3 During the construction period the site shall be accessed via the approved construction access route and co-ordinated with the site manager.
- 3.4 VEGETATION CLEARANCE FOR HEDGEROW PLANTING
 - ◆ Clear planting areas of any material deleterious to plant growth.
 - ◆ Clear injurious and invasive weeds and brambles.
 - ◆ Apply a suitable non-residual herbicide to eradicate grass/weeds in areas to be planted with hedgerows, shrubs and trees to prevent soil and sunlight competition from weeds during plant establishment.

3.5 SOIL CONDITIONS

- ◆ Plant into moist friable soil that is not waterlogged.
- ◆ Do not plant into frozen or snow covered soil. Provide adequate additional root protection and prevent planting pit sides and bases and backfill materials from freezing.

3.6 CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

- ◆ Where possible carry out the work while soil and weather conditions are suitable for the relevant operations. Avoid planting during periods of frost or strong winds where possible. Plant only during the following periods:
- ◆ Bare root deciduous trees and shrubs: November to late February/early March (depending upon local weather conditions).
- ◆ Evergreens: March/April.
- ◆ Wildflower/grass mix seeding: March /April, late August/early September.

3.7 MACHINES & TOOLS

- ◆ Use only machinery and tools suitable for the site conditions and the work to be carried out.

3.8 WATERING

- ◆ Monitor weather and soil moisture conditions and water as necessary to ensure the establishment and continued thriving of all planting.

3.9 TREES/PLANTS GENERALLY

- ◆ Tree, hedge and shrub plants will be materially undamaged, sturdy, healthy, vigorous, of good shape and without elongated shoots and with a balanced root and branch system in accordance with the relevant part of the National Plant Specification.
- ◆ Tree hedge and shrub plants shall be free from pests, diseases, discoloration, weeds and physiological disorders.

3.10 CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

- ◆ Any container grown plants will be supplied in a growing medium with adequate nutrients and root growth for the plant to thrive until permanently planted.

3.11 LABELLING & INFORMATION

- ◆ Provide each tree or group of trees/plants of a single species or cultivar with supplier's labelling for delivery to site - all trees are to be individually labelled with wrap around weatherproof label tags positioned 1.5 metres above the base for ease of identification showing:
 - ◆ The full botanical name
 - ◆ Total number
 - ◆ Number of bundles and part bundles
 - ◆ Supplier's name
 - ◆ Employer's name and project reference
 - ◆ Plant specification, in accordance with the scheduled National Plant Specification categories
- ◆ The grass and wildflower seed mix bags are to be appropriately labelled (including place of purchase, provenance and clear details of the seed species mix and weight) and the labels and purchase receipt photographed and provided to the site manager and owner.

3.12 PLANT/TREE HANDLING, STORAGE & TRANSPORT

- ◆ Protect plants/trees from frost and prevent from drying out.
- ◆ Handle plants/trees with care. Protect from mechanical damage and do not subject to shock, e.g. by dropping from a vehicle.

3.13 TREATMENT OF TREE WOUNDS

- ◆ Keep wounds as small as possible and cut cleanly back to sound wood using sharp, clean tools. Set cuts so that water will not collect on cut area.

4. PREPARATION OF PLANTING AREAS

4.1 WEEDS

- ◆ Prevent weeds from seeding and perennial weeds from becoming established.

4.2 CULTIVATION

- ◆ Break up any compact topsoil to full depth.

4.3 GRADING PRIOR TO PLANTING

- ◆ Following cultivation and when topsoil is reasonably dry and workable grade any disturbed/uneven ground to smooth, flowing levels to tie in with adjoining levels.

4.4 PIT EXCAVATION

- ◆ Drill or excavate pits for hedge, shrub and tree plants to accommodate root spread to a depth 150mm deeper than root system.

5. PLANTING

- 5.1 Planting will be undertaken in accordance with BS3936 (Part 1, 1992, Nursery Stock, Specifications for trees and shrubs) and BS4428:1989 – General Landscape Operations. The fields will be seeded in a species rich grassland wildflower mix (Emorsgate EM3 Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture or similar) at 20-40kg/hectare. Seeds will be evenly spread and ensure that there are no bare patches of earth left unseeded.

5.2 SETTING OUT (Hedgerows, trees and shrub areas)

- ◆ New and infill hedgerow planting will be planted as double staggered rows at 7 plants per metre and 0.4 metre centres.
- ◆ Plant species in random groups ensuring a continuous mixed species hedgerows.
- ◆ Planting species, quantities and distribution will be in accordance with the Detailed Planting Proposal plans described on the Planting Schedule.
- ◆ Hedge plants will be planted so as to ensure stems do not obstruct travel paths to the mammal gates

5.3 STAKING

◆ Stake as follows:

Tree/shrub size/type:	No. and overall length of stake (allow for 300mm driven into base of pit):	Min. cross section of stake:	No. of Ties
Feathered trees over 1.5 high	Single stake, 1/2 height of stem	50mm	1
Selected Standard Trees	Single stake, 2/3 height of clear stem	75mm	2

Additional Requirements for Select Standard Trees:

- ◆ Position stake close to tree on windward side and drive vertically at least 300 mm into bottom of pit before planting. Consolidate material around stake during backfilling.
- ◆ Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to stake with at least two black rubber or nylon reinforced rubber belt ties with rubber spacers/pads to prevent abrasion. Use three ties if necessary to prevent tree touching stake.
- ◆ Position top tie within 25 mm of top of stake and lower tie approximately halfway down.

Additional Requirements for Feathered Trees:

- ◆ Position stake close to tree on windward side and drive vertically at least 300 mm into bottom of pit before planting. Consolidate material around stake during backfilling.
- ◆ Secure tree firmly but not rigidly to the stake with 1 no. tie within 25 mm of top of stake.

5.4 BACKFILLING MATERIAL

- ◆ Replace any subsoil in base of pit and firm soil around plants without damaging roots to ensure plants remain firmly upright.
- ◆ Replace previously excavated topsoil and firm soil around plants without damaging roots to ensure plants remain firmly upright.

5.5 TREE, SHRUB & HEDGEROW PROTECTION

- ◆ New hedgerows alongside security fencing and around shrub and tree planting areas will be protected by stock fencing with two strands of barbed wire to discourage animal grazing.
- ◆ All planting not protected by fencing will be protected with spiral or tubex box guards.
- ◆ Vole guards (min. 200mm high) to be applied to base of all feathered and selected standard trees.

6. REPLACEMENT OF DEAD, DAMAGED, DISEASED & REMOVED PLANTS

- 6.1 Dead, damaged, diseased or otherwise defective hedge and shrub plants and trees will be replaced within the first five years subsequent to planting in accordance with BS3936 (Part 1, 1992, Nursery Stock, Specifications for trees and shrubs) and BS4428:1989 – General Landscape Operations.

7. MAINTENANCE & INSPECTION

- 7.1 The new and re-inforced hedgerows, shrub and tree planting will be subject to an initial 5-year inspection and maintenance programme to ensure the successful establishment and long term vitality of the landscape areas. The first 2 years will comprise the initial establishment of the hedgerow planting and Years 3-5 will comprise general maintenance. Hedgerows and trees are to be managed in accordance with BS3998:2010 and 'Hedgelink- 'The Complete Hedgerow Good Management Guide'.
- 7.2 In the first two years of planting, planting will be inspected 3-4 times per year in mid-spring, late-spring, mid-summer and late summer with additional inspections if extended dry periods are evident/forecast. Soil moisture will be inspected and plant watering undertaken if it appears plants are under stress.

8. PLANTING SCHEDULE

8.1 HEDGEROW, SHRUBLAND & TREE PLANTING SCHEDULE

Hedge planting			H1*	H2*	H3^	H3a*	H4a*	H4*	H5*	H6*	H7	H8*	H9*	H10*	H12	H13^	
Hedgerow length in metres (approx..)			270	28	200	55	70	130	230	205	390	140	315	330	110	200	
Number of rows/no. per m)			2/5	2/5	2/5	7/30	7/30	3/7	3/7	2/5	N/A	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	2/5	
	Size (cm)	%	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Qty	Total
Acer campestre (Field Maple)	60-80cm	10	135	14	50	165	210	91	161	102	N/A	70	160	165	55	50	
Rosa canina (dog rose)	60-80cm	10	135	14	50	165	210	91	161	102	N/A	70	160	165	55	50	
Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood)	60-80cm	20	270	28	100	330	420	182	322	204	N/A	140	320	330	110	100	
Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)	60-80cm	20	270	28	100	330	420	182	322	204	N/A	140	320	330	110	100	
Crateagus monogyna (Hawthorn)	60-80cm	40	540	56	200	660	840	364	644	413	N/A	280	615	660	220	200	
Total			1350	140	500	1650	2100	910	1610	1025		700	1575	1650	550	500	14260
* denotes new hedgerow. ^ denotes hedgerow re-inforcement and gapping up.																	

Shrub planting areas (density 1/m ²)			Area (1200m ²)
Species	Size (cm)	%	Qty
Acer campestre (Field Maple)	60-80cm	10	120
Rosa canina (Dog Rose)	60-80cm	10	120
Cornus sanguinea (Dogwood)	60-80cm	20	240
Crateaegus monogyna (Hawthorn)	60-80cm	20	240
Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)	60-80cm	40	480
Total			1200

Tree planting				H1	H3	H5	Total	
	Form	Girth (cm)	Height (m)	Qty	Qty	Qty		
Quercus robur (oak)	Std	10-12	3.0-3.5	2	1	2	5	

8.2 FIELDS

- ◆ In the planting season immediately following installation the fields will be sown with a species rich grassland wildflower mix (Emorsgate EM3 Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture or similar) at 20-40kg/hectare.