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PLANTING SPECIFICATION
These implementation and maintenance guidelines are for planning purposes only to indicate the level of workmanship to be specified and do not constitute a detailed specification.

- GENERAL**
 - 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.
 - All plants shall conform to BS 3936 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 CPRE.
 - 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.
 - Planting shall not be carried out when the ground is waterlogged, frost bound or during periods of cold drying winds. All bare-root 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 8545 Chapters 9 to 10 and Annexes E to F.
 - 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.
 - A minimum intervention approach will be used in years of weed control. In areas of transplant tree/shrub or ornamental shrub planting this is to be achieved by using much 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.
- TREE PLANTING**

Ground Preparation and Tree Pit Excavation

 - Where necessary remove existing weeds by hand. Chemical removal using a glyphosate-based herbicide will be avoided; where large areas need to be cleared a non-glyphosate herbicide should be used – following which allow a suitable period to elapse, as recommended by the manufacturer, for the herbicide to take effect.
 - Tree pits of at least 250mm diameter greater than the root system and no deeper than the rootball / container should be excavated and the sides well scarified to prevent smearing. All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm in any dimension shall be removed from site.
 - During excavation of the pit, the soil dug should be placed to one side separating topsoil and subsoil as far as is practical.
 - 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**
 - Trees shall be planted as per the planting arrangement as set out on the planting plan and plant schedule.
 - 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.
 - The root system of the tree should be wetted 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 system transition should be level with the existing host soil or surface. The base of the root system and no deeper than the rootball / container should the subsoil will sit around the lower portion of the rootball.
 - 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 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.
 - 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.
 - All multi-stem trees are to be staked with a single diagonal stake, driven at 45° to the lead stem.
 - All heavy and 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.
 - Staked trees shall be secured to stakes with suitable proprietary hessian or jute tree ties with approx. 50mm depth. A space is to be formed using the natural tree tie itself.
 - Immediately after planting, but before applying the below bark mulch, all trees should be saturated to field capacity.
 - 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.

- NATIVE HEDGE PLANTING**

Ground Preparation

 - Where necessary existing weeds will be treated with a glyphosate-based herbicide and a suitable period allowed to elapse, as recommended by the manufacturer, for the herbicide to take effect.
 - All extraneous matter such as plastic, wood, metal and stones greater than 50mm diameter will be removed from site to a registered waste disposal facility.
 - Planting**
 - The planting arrangement shall be double staggered, offset 5/1 in m, with central fence (post and wire).
 - Bare-root hedge plants shall be notch planted in a double staggered row at the rate of 5 plants per linear metre (using L-shaped notches) using spaces of a design suitable for this purpose. The notches must be vertical and deep enough for the roots to hang freely, with the transplant being planted so that the root collar is exactly level with the ground surface. The notches must then be closed, and the soil will be firmed round the roots in line with the guidelines as set out in BS 4428 (1989).
 - All bare-root hedge planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 600mm plastic-free shrub guards (e.g. Greentech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.9m 12/14lb canes as advised by the manufacturer.
 - All dead, dying or diseased hedge plants will be replaced with plants of similar size and species. If the failure of the plant is due to disease and the disease is considered likely to re-occur, then an alternative species may be used as replacement if agreed with the LPA.
 - The planting area will be kept weed free throughout the maintenance period using approved herbicides in April, June and August.
- NATIVE SHRUB PLANTING**

Ground Preparation

 - Cut existing rough grass and weeds to between 20mm and 30mm and remove 300x300mm squares of turf at 1/m².
 - Planting**
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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-free shrub guards (e.g. Greentech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.9m (for shrub species) x 32mm x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.
 - All container-grown planting stock will be protected from rabbit damage using approved proprietary 600mm plastic-free shrub guards (e.g. Greentech Bio-Earth Biodegradable Plastic-Free Shelter), supported with 0.9m x 32mm x 32mm softwood stakes as advised by the manufacturer.
 - Maintenance**
 - 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.
- SHRUB/HERBACEOUS PLANTING**
 - Shrubs/herbaceous plants are to be set out as shown on the drawing and pit planted into the prepared soil at the specified densities with minimal disturbance to the rootball and well firmed in.
 - Recommended rooting depths are 600mm for shrubs/herbaceous plants. Multi-purpose topsoil depths should be 300mm for shrubs/herbaceous, ensuring that a suitable subsoil shall provide 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.
 - Within the area of planting shrub/herbaceous plants should be saturated to field capacity; this shall be done before applying the below bark mulch.
 - Spread ornamental pine bark mulch to a depth of 75mm across all new planted areas.

- AMENITY GRASS**

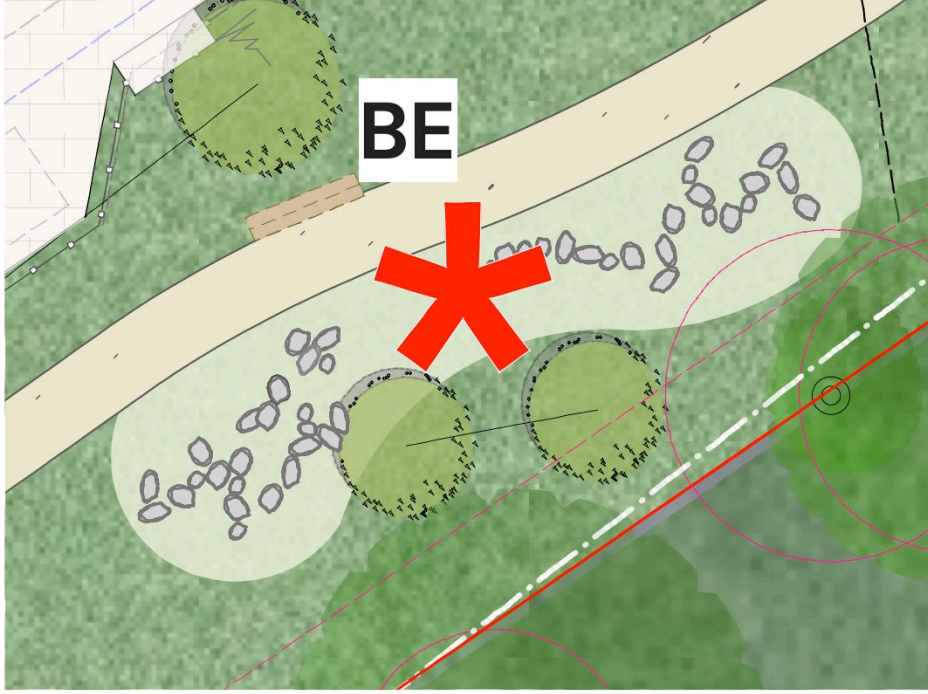
Preparation

 - Areas to be turfed or seeded shall be sprayed out with a glyphosate herbicide and cultivated to a depth of 100mm removing all weeds, debris and stones over 25mm diameter. The surface shall be raked to smooth flowing contours with a fine tith. Amenity grass areas will receive pre-seeding fertiliser at 70 g/m². Meadow grass areas will not be fertilised.
 - The minimum overall recommended rooting depth for grass is 450mm, the first 150mm shall be made up of a multi-purpose topsoil. It shall be ensured that a suitable subsoil shall provide 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.
 - Grass/turf finish levels will be 25mm above surrounding kerbs, paving and plant bed edges.
 - Turf shall be supplied in accordance with BS3969. It shall be close textured and green in colour and be sufficiently fibrous to withstand handling. Turves shall be regular in shape, 300mm wide and of uniform thickness (minimum 25mm). The grass shall be closely mown and shall not exceed 25mm in height. Turf shall be stacked in piles of up to 1 metre. It shall not be laid in frosty or waterlogged conditions and shall not be stacked in rolls for more than three days. Turfing operations shall be in accordance with BS 4428. Whole turves shall be laid around the perimeter of the area to be turfed. The central area shall be laid in rows with staggered joints, well butted together, working from planks positioned on turves already laid. The turf shall be watered on completion. Any unevenness shall be made good by lifting the turf and adjusting the levels. Should shrinkage occur, fine topsoil shall be brushed into the joints.
 - Seeding**
 - Grass seed shall be sown either in April/May or September/October during calm weather and not when the ground is frost bound or waterlogged. Seed shall be sown in two equal sowings in transverse directions at 50 g/m² for the Germinall A22 Mix for amenity grass. After sowing the contractor shall lightly rake the seed into intimate contact with the soil.
 - Initial Cut**
 - When newly seeded amenity grass areas reach 50mm they should be lightly rolled out and cut to a height of 25mm. All arising shall be removed. Any bare patches shall be made good at this time. Amenity grass shall be regularly maintained between 25 and 50mm during the first season after sowing. Long or rough mown grass will be maintained between 50 and 75mm during the first season after sowing.
- SPECIES RICH GRASSLAND**

Preparation

 - 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 tith.
 - Seeding**
 - Seeds shall be sown either in April/May or September/October during calm weather and not when the ground is frost bound or waterlogged.
 - 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. 5g/m² for Emorsgate. EGI General Purpose Meadow Grass Mixture, EMS Meadow Mixture for wetlands and 50g/m² for Germinall A22 Mix. 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**
 - 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 cornfield annuals.
 - When newly seeded wildflower areas reach 50mm they should be cut to a height of 25mm. All arising's shall be removed. Any bare patches shall be made good at this time. Both amenity and meadow grass shall be regularly maintained between 25 and 50mm during the first season after sowing. The species rich long grass – EGI will then be maintained at a height of approx. 100-150mm.

- Proposed 'Play on the Way'
 - to consist of glacial play boulders of varying heights and sizes (min 300-600mm above ground height, set min. 1/3rd into the ground for stability, set to avoid potential finger traps, and with all edges rounded) within an area of amenity grass, to provide opportunity for imaginative natural play



PLANTING SCHEDULE

Individual Tree Planting

Qty	Latin Name	Common Name	Height at Purchase	Root Condition	Girth	Form	Min Clear Stem
14	Acer campestre	Field Maple	350-425cm	RB	14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm
6	Acer campestre 'Streetwise'	Field Maple 'Streetwise'	400-450cm	RB	14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm
10	Betula pendula	European White Birch	350-425cm	RB	14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm
6	Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam	350-425cm	RB	14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm
13	Corylus avellana (MS)	Common Hazel	250-300cm	C	n/a	Multistem	n/a
14	Crataegus monogyna	Common Hawthorn	350-425cm	RB	14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm
6	Ilex aquifolium	Common Holly	350-400cm	RB	12-14cm	Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm
4	Prunus avium	Wild Cherry	350-425cm	RB	14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm
3	Quercus robur	Common Oak	350-425cm	RB	14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm
3	Sorbus torminalis	Wild Service Tree	400-450cm	RB	14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm
9	Tilia cordata	Lime	350-425cm	RB	14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm
10	Ulmus New Horizon	Elm	350-425cm	RB	14-16cm	Extra Heavy Standard	Min. 200cm

Mixed Native Hedgerows (Planted double staggered, 5 plants lin/m)

Qty	Latin Name	Common Name	Height at Purchase	Root Condition	Form	Min Clear Stem
109	Acer campestre	Field Maple	60-80cm	RB	Whip	Min. 200cm
147	Corylus avellana	Hazel	60-80cm	RB	Whip	Min. 200cm
256	Crataegus monogyna	Common Hawthorn	60-80cm	RB	Whip	Min. 200cm
13	Ilex aquifolium	Common Holly	60-80cm	RB	Whip	Min. 200cm
108	Prunus spinosa	Common Blackthorn	60-80cm	RB	Whip	Min. 200cm
72	Rosa canina	Dogrose	60-80cm	RB	Whip	Min. 200cm

Native Shrub Mix (2 plants / sq m)

Qty	Latin Name	Common Name	Height at Purchase	Root Condition	Density/ sq m
109	Acer campestre	Field Maple	60-80cm	RB	2
382	Cornus sanguinea	Common Dogwood	60-80cm	RB	2
147	Corylus avellana	Hazel	60-80cm	RB	2
193	Corylus avellana	Hazel	60-80cm	RB	2
669	Crataegus monogyna	Common Hawthorn	60-80cm	RB	2
193	Prunus spinosa	Common Blackthorn	60-80cm	RB	2
193	Rosa canina	Dogrose	60-80cm	RB	2

Ornamental Planting

Qty	Latin Name	Common Name	Height	Pot Size	Breaks/ Lower 1/3	Density/ sq m
36	Abelia x grandiflora	Glossy Abelia	30-40cm	5L	6	3
41	Achillea millefolium 'Walter Funcke'	Common Yarrow 'Walter Funcke'	60-80cm	2L	3	3
16	Cornus alba 'Kesselringi'	White Dogwood	60-80cm	5L	4	2
16	Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire'	Dogwood 'Midwinter Fire'	60-80cm	5L	4	2
16	Lonicera pileata	Lonicera	60cm	5L	3	3
41	Oenothera lundheimii 'Whirling Butterflies'	Gaura	70-80cm	2L	6	3
41	Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Little Bunny'	Little Bunny Dwarf Fountain Grass	10-30 cm	2L	5	3
36	Rosa Kent'	Rose Kent	30-40cm	5L	6	3
41	Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'	Goldsturm Black Eyed Susan	30-60cm	2L	4	3
36	Spiraea japonica 'Anthony waterer'	Japanese spiraea	30-40cm	5L	7	3
36	Spiraea japonica 'Goldflame'	Japanese spiraea	30-40cm	5L	7	3
114	Sispa tenuissima	Mexican Feather Grass	30-40cm	5L	5	5
41	Verberna bonariensis	Tall Verberna	30-40cm	2L	6	3

Bulb Planting

Qty	Latin Name	Common Name	Height	Pot Size	Breaks/ Lower 1/3	Density/ sq m
590	Galanthus nivalis	Snowdrop	5-6	20 Plants/sq m		
590	Narcissus pseudonarcissus	Wild Daffodils	7+	20 Plants/sq m		

BULB PLANTING

- Bulb planting is to be naturalistic in character and should not be planted in manmade grids or lines. Random planting can be achieved by evenly scattering the bulbs/corms over the marked-out bulb planting area and planting where they fall.
- Bulbs are to be planted at a depth suitable for each species with the base in contact with the bottom of the hole. The removed soil backfilled and firmed on top and, where relevant, the removed plug of turf neatly replaced after planting.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

- 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**
- 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

- 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.

28/05/2026	E	Swales amended; Ino. Acer campestre, hedgerow, bench and planting tags added; bin moved
04/12/2025	D	Amended layout, drainage, lighting, and to LPA comments
13/06/2025	C	Landscape amended to ecologist comments
20/05/2025	B	Landscape amended to client comments
16/05/2025	A	First Issue

DATE	NO	REVISION NOTE
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DETAILED LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE FINCHAMPSTEAD PARCEL 6

CLIENT
VISTRY THAMES VALLEY

DATE
28/05/2026

SCALE
1:1000 @AO

TEAM
VK

APPRVD
RVF

DRAWING NUMBER

P24-2400_EN_04E

PEGASUS
GROUP